Hafa Adai!

Happy Liberation Day!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a proposal to impose a new $6.50 charge on each airline passenger arriving in the CNMI?

Yes	44
No	125
Undecided	3
No opinion	3

Sunday, July 03, 2011

INSIDE

Tragedy Outdoors

A fierce thunderstorm swept through a rural Wisconsin county that was packed with holiday campers.

Nation...Page 16

Chip Obsession

It's the biggest demon behind that pound-a-year weight creep that plagues many of us.

Health & Fitness...Page 18

Blockbuster Bots

The latest "Transformers" sequel might set some revenue records over Fourth of July weekend.

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Saipan respondents junk reunification with Guam. PAGE 2

Joe DL Guerrero likely to replace Benavente as House minority leader. PAGE 4

2010 STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT STATES

71 victims of human trafficking, LABOR FRAUD IN CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A newly released U.S. State Department report detailing slavery in 184 countries in 2010 cites 71 victims of human trafficking or fraud in labor contracting in the CNMI alone.

Of the 71, about 20 percent were sex trafficking victims, based on data from the Federal Labor Ombudsman in the CNMI.

The "2011 Trafficking in Persons Report" says in the CNMI, there were six reported human trafficking cases involving multiple victims held in clubs, restaurants, and massage parlors.

See LABOR on Page 4

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND

Against a backdrop of overcast skies and exposed seaweeds because of low tide, two children spend their Sunday afternoon playing and swimming on Saipan's Lagoon. Residents are hoping that today's weather would be just fine for the Fourth of July Parade, which is set to start at 10am by the National Office Supply along Beach Road to the carnival grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See related story on Page 6

Tinian Dynasty employees yet to get almost 4 months of back wages

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The good news is that Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino employees got paid two weeks ago. But the bad news is that the paychecks they got were for their late February to early March payroll.

"We still haven't received our paychecks for March to June. It's now July," said one of the employees in an interview.

Another said while their employer is behind by almost four months in paying their wages, she's thankful she still has a job, considering the economic hardships not only on Tinian but in the entire CNMI as well.

Tinian Dynasty employees customar-

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'Police, firefighters who refuse lie detector can be terminated'

» Elbert Quitugua appeals again for information, release of Luhk sisters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety's police officers and firemen who refuse to undergo a lie detector test can be suspended and then terminated, according to veteran trial attorney Michael W. Dotts yesterday.

Mafnas

As this developed, Elbert Quitugua, grandfather of the missing sis-

See POLICE on Page 4

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Local

NMC SURVEY RESULTS

Saipan respondents junk reunification with Guam

» Surveyed Rota residents say 'yes'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A survey conducted by students of Northern Marianas College found that majority of respondents on Saipan are against the proposed reunification with Guam, while most of those surveyed on Rota are in favor of it.

In a study conducted by the NMC Marianas Reunification Survey Group, which results were announced Friday noon, 439 respondents out of the 835 surveyed in the two islands were opposed to reunification with the U.S. territory.

This reflects 52 percent of the total respondents. Those who are in favor of unification totaled 396 or 48 percent of those survey. Majority of respondents were Chamorros.

Broken down, results indicated that out of the 690 surveyed on Saipan, 275 responded yes to reunification while 415 responded no.

Of the 415 that said no, 329 were U.S. citizens, voters, or residents. Out of the 275 who favored the proposal, 143 were U.S. citizens, voters, or NMI residents. Saipan recorded 352 male respondents and 322 female respondents.

Meanwhile, out of the 145 surveyed on Rota, 121 approved reunification while 24 junked the proposal.

Many of the respondents believe that reunification will mean that CNMI residents will become the minority and Guam has more to gain than the Northern Marianas.

Respondents are also convinced that Guam is pushing for reunification because the U.S. territory want some of the political freedom the CNMI currently enjoys with its relationship with the U.S.

The 48 percent who voted in favor of the idea believe that reunification is good for the economy and will help boost declining tourism industry in the Commonwealth. In addition, they said reunification will bring one single entity for both Guam and the CNMI.

In three separate occasions, the group surveyed 690 respondents on Saipan and 145 on Rota. Because of time constraints and limited resources, the survey was not able to include the island of Tinian.

According to group members—Keo Buenpacifico, Jason Quiblat, and Daegeon Sablan—the study was conducted during the four-day Flame Tree Arts Festival, Thursday's Street Market, and during a public hearing on casino legislation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Two measures in both Guam and the CNMI Legislature were recently introduced proposing anew a non-binding reunification of both insular areas.

In the past, Guam and the CNMI used to be a single political entity but was separated when former was sold to the U.S. in 1898 following the Spanish-American War.

Friday's survey result presentation was attended by the current issues class instructor Sam McPhetres, NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera, and some members of the Legislature.

American Memorial Park annex on Tinian pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan has introduced legislation directing the U.S. Department of the Interior to build and maintain an American Memorial Park annex on Tinian to preserve World War II artifacts on the island where they were found.

The facility would be an extension of the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

Sablan, in his remarks during the unveiling of a monument at the Tinian North Field for the 2nd Marine Division on Friday, said the annex will provide a place for visitors to learn about the role of Tinian during World War II.

"This legislation faces a battle of its own in these times of austerity. But we must try. And certainly the people of Tinian and Tinian's elected leaders have been very supportive, for which I am grateful," he said.

Sablan's HR 1103 has been referred to the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the proposed annex will give Tinian visitors "a better image and understanding of the jobs that the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions did during World War II.

Dela Cruz called for support for Sablan's HR 1103.

In 2001, the U.S. National Park Service conducted a suitability and feasibility study of Tinian's North Field, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.

The area, which is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense for 50 years, has also been designated as a national historic landmark.

North Field was the launching pad for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hastening the end of the war.

But the National Park Service determined that it was not feasible to include North Field on Tinian as a unit of the NPS system because of the military's future long-term needs.

Sablan said a Tinian annex to the American Memorial Park on Saipan "could provide the opportunity for on and off site interpretation of North Field without conflicting with military needs."

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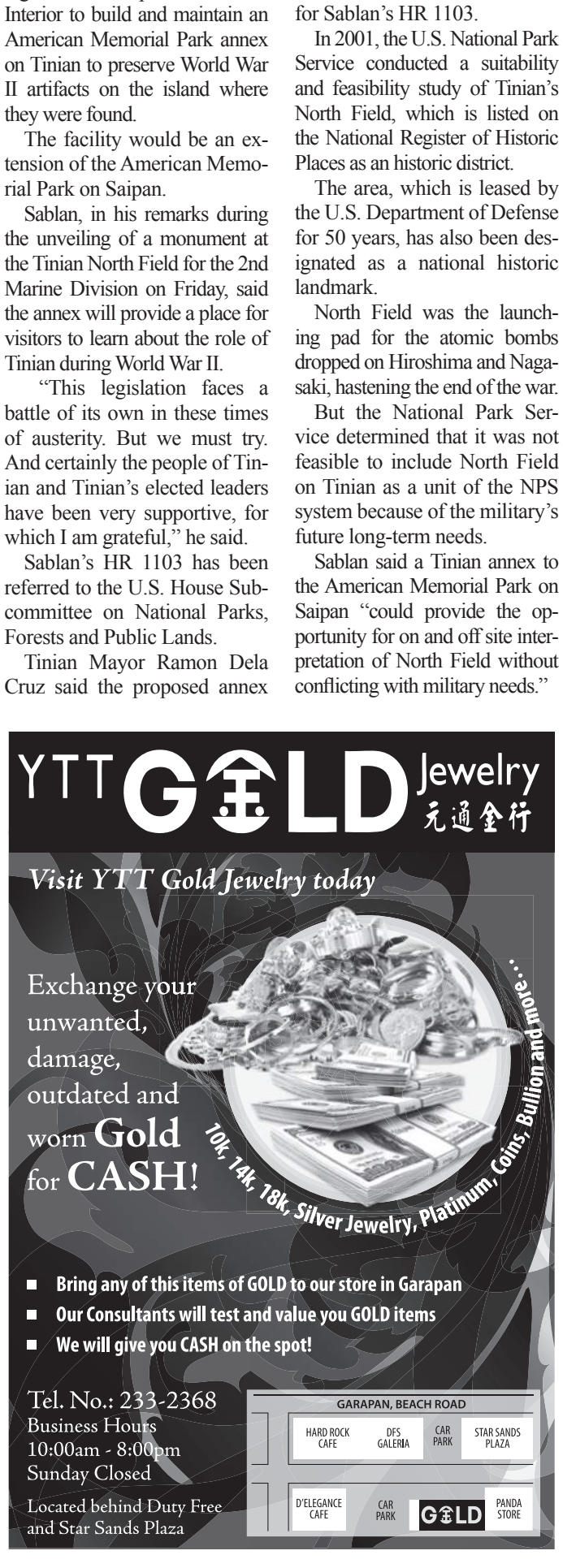
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Fund to set aside over $100M for DB plan members

» Retirees upset on proposed court judgment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund disclosed Friday that it needs to set aside an approximate amount for all its defined benefit plan members, an order announced by Judge Kenneth Govendo during last week's hearing.

Due to the "oral judgment" from the court, an emergency meeting was called Friday noon by the Fund trustees to immediately discuss the new order, which they believe would severely affect the Fund's already shaky fiscal state.

Viola Alepuyo, counsel for the board trustees, revealed that the Fund—based on the updated DB plan members' contribution—needs to set aside more than $100 million to comply with Govendo's order.

She explained that the court order aims "to protect those who contributed into the pension system" by setting aside funding that cannot be used for other purposes.

Alepuyo said the Fund actually doesn't need to create a "separate account" for the purpose and added that the oral judgment didn't cite a specific amount the Fund should set aside.

The over $100 million was an amount based on the Fund's record.

Alepuyo reported to the board that the "set aside amount" not only covers current employees of the government—or DB plan members—but retirees who have yet to get all their contributions from the Fund.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar disclosed that from $320 million in May 31, the Fund only has $305 million in total assets as of Friday following the continuous drawdown of pension payouts every month.

He disclosed that the Fund needs $600 million more to pay all its obligation to members, which represents the unfunded liability of the pension system.

Saipan Tribune learned that because of the $100 million it needs to set aside, the Fund will only have about $200 million left to invest and pay for the pension of members.

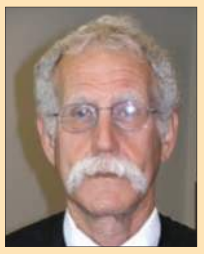
Fund officials described the agency's current situation as an "emergency" and if no solution is identified will result in more chaos.

"The fiscal condition of the Fund didn't change before and after the hearing. It is the position of the legal team that things remain the same. We've been screaming across the street for help and assistance for monies to come here [from the government]. We even sat down with the negotiating team [from the administration] to identify a solution," said Alepuyo, adding that the Fund even identified and suggested that allocation

See FUND on Next Page

'Placing Fund under receivership would not solve its problems'

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo has stated that he does not share the view that placing the NMI Retirement Fund under federal receivership would solve the Fund's problems.


Govendo

At a status hearing last week, Govendo said there are some who believe that federal receivership for the Fund will be the "magic bullet" to solve the whole problem.

Govendo said he could not see that happening.

"It still comes down to the lack of money," the judge pointed out.

Govendo inquired the status of the receivership request filed by attorney Bruce Jorgensen on behalf of unnamed plaintiffs, who sued the Fund and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Viola Alepuyo, counsel for Fund, replied that Judge A. Wallace Tashima recused himself from hearing a request for a status conference and motion to lift stay order on the lawsuit.

Alepuyo said the new hearing date before another judge would be July 24, 2011.

Govendo said he is well aware that the government is in a dire financial situation and funds are just not available.

Govendo wished he could solve the problem as he knew that a lot of retirees think he should be able to produce a "magic bullet' and solve everything.

The judge said he is issuing the orders and some people think he should also do the collecting for the Fund, "which is certainly not the case."

In June 2009, Govendo ruled that the CNMI government owes the Fund $231.6 million in damages and that the law suspending government contributions to the Fund is unconstitutional. As of February 2011, the government's debt has reportedly grown to $317 million. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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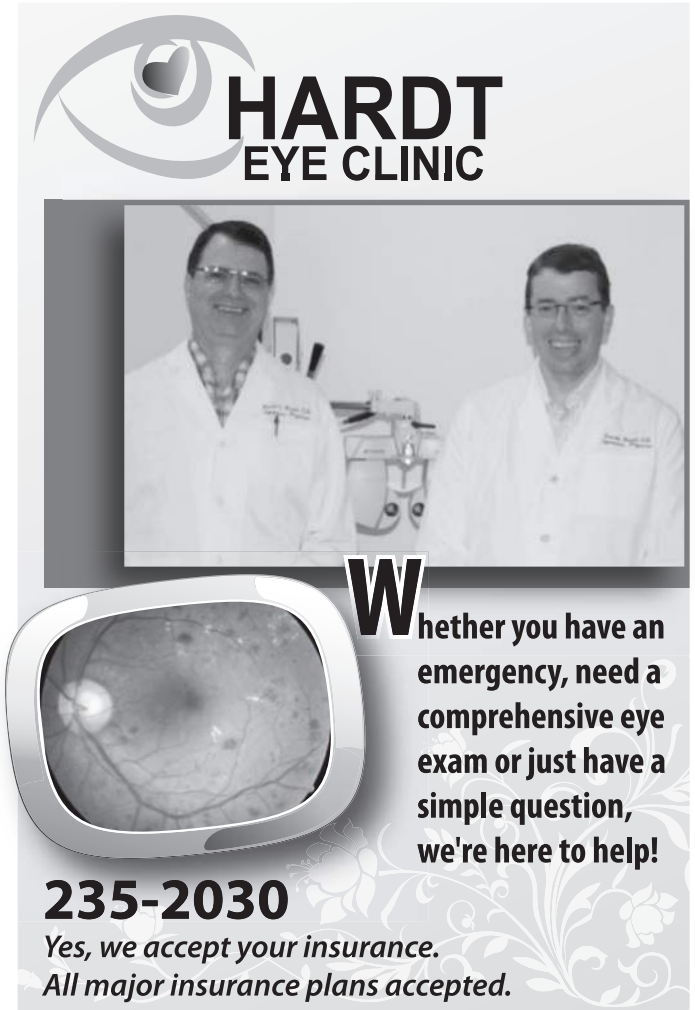
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Joe DL Guerrero likely to replace Benavente as House minority leader

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) is likely to be the next House minority leader when the post is vacated by Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), who will be resigning effective July 16 to be able to spend more time with his family.

Deleon Guerrero and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) are the two most senior members in the minority bloc.

But Tebuteb, in a phone interview yesterday, said he will "graciously decline" if he's selected because, among other things, he is already the current chairman of the 21-member Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

"I would recommend Congressman Joe," he said.

Deleon Guerrero, in a separate interview, said he's willing to be the next minority leader if he's elected.

"If they vote for me, then yes, I will serve," he said.

The minority bloc will wait for the governor's appointment of former Rep. Janet Maratita to fill in the vacancy in the Legislature once Benavente's resignation takes effect.

Article II Section 9 of the NMI Constitution says that when less than one-half of the term remains, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve or, if no candidate is available, a person qualified for the office from the district represented.

That person is Maratita, who is currently program manager for the Department of Public Health's Diabetes and Non-Communicable Disease Control.

"Out of respect for former Congresswoman Maratita, we will wait until she decides whether to align with the minority or the majority. If she decides to align with the minority, then she will have a vote on who she thinks should be the next minority leader," Deleon Guerrero said.

Benavente, for his part, said he does not want to recommend a replacement because the decision should rest on the remaining minority members.

Benavente, one of the longest serving lawmakers, spent more than 15 years in the Legislature as a speaker, minority leader, and member. He served as lieutenant governor from 2002 to 2006 to then governor Juan N. Babauta.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who had earlier indicated eyeing the minority leadership, could not say as of yesterday whether he would like to be considered as next minority leader.

Yumul only said yesterday Maratita will be welcomed to take part in the minority's voting process when the time and date is set.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), for his part, said he's confident that Maratita will align herself with the majority. But he said it does not matter which side Maratita chooses because she will be welcomed by both majority and minority blocs.

Maratita won a seat in the 14th House of Representatives as a Republican. In the last election, she ran under the Covenant Party, but lost. During the gubernatorial runoff election, she endorsed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

POLICE

From Page 1

ters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, again appealed to the person or persons who may be holding the girls to release the children.

Last week, DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas confirmed that a DPS employee refused to undergo a lie detector test as part of the investigation into the girls' disappearance.

Sources said the DPS employee is somehow "related" to the missing girls.

Asked for a legal expert's opinion about the lie detector test, Dotts said the U.S. and the CNMI constitutions both ensure that a person cannot be compelled to testify against themselves and therefore can refuse to answer a question that might incriminate themselves in a crime.

"A statement to law enforcement personnel while attached to a lie detector machine would qualify for this protection," Dotts said.

However, the lawyer said, if the DPS personnel were granted immunity from prosecution by the Attorney General then they could be compelled to answer questions.

"Granting immunity would mean that if the police officer then confessed to a crime he could not be prosecuted and that may be too high a price to pay to get his answers," Dotts said.

He said DPS can legally suspend and then terminate a police officer or firefighter who refuses to take a lie detector test.

Dotts said if the DPS staff member is not a police officer or firefighter, then it might not be possible to discipline the employee for refusing to take the lie detector test.

"There are a lot of cases that have looked at this issue but the general rule is that employees who deal with public safety (police officers and firemen) can be required to take lie detector test as a condition of continued employment, and fired if they refuse," he said.

The lawyer pointed out that police officers and other employees who deal with law enforcement are often treated harsher by the law when they break the law or are suspected of breaking the law.

Dotts said the reason is that people look to police officers as role models and people rely on their honesty and integrity.

"When they break the law they are punished more severely to ensure public confidence remains," he said.

As a consequence for refusing to undergo lie detector test, police officers or firefighters could loose their job and that may affect their retirement benefits.

The police officer or firefighter, Dotts said, could file a civil rights action for wrongful termination against DPS if fired but the police officer or firefighter would likely loose because of the general rule.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* about the DPS personnel's reported refusal to undergo lie detector test, Elbert Quitugua said he does not want to comment anymore about the issue.

Quitugua instead appealed to anyone who has information about his grandchildren to come forward and call them or the authorities.

Ten-year-old Faloma and the 9-year-old Maleina have been missing in As Teo since May 25.

LABOR

From Page 1

"A trend was observed involving the cancellation of victims' return airplane tickets upon admission, stranding them with no financial means to return and rendering them wholly dependent on their employers," the report says about the CNMI.

The CNMI is home to thousands of foreign workers, who are employed in almost all types of private businesses and industries. Most of these foreign workers are from the Philippines, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries.

A copy of the report is available at http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm.

"Trafficking in persons" or "human trafficking" has been used as umbrella terms for activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.

Major forms of human trafficking include forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, and forced child labor.

The State Department's report says in 2010, a non-government organization working on the CNMI anti-trafficking task force assisted 36 human trafficking victims.

An additional 31 victims qualified for services but could not be assisted due to insufficient funds.

Human trafficking cases continue to be reported in the CNMI.

Last Thursday, for example, a woman pleaded guilty in federal court for recruiting six persons in China to come to the CNMI with promises of jobs here while pretending to be tourists.

Honglian Cheng, 25, along with Li Hua, pleaded guilty to a count of foreign labor contracting fraud conspiracy as part of a plea bargain. She will be sentenced on Sept. 15, 2011.

U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton said the annual report embodies the United States' continued dedication to fighting traffickers no matter where they may be because fighting slavery and standing up for human rights is part of the national identity.

"For the girls in the shelter—and for all those who have been victimized by this crime—we will remain steadfast in our efforts and truthful in our assessments. We must deliver on our promises to protect victims, punish abusers, and restore the lives of survivors so that someday they will have the opportunity to realize their God-given potential," she said.

Former Rota teacher and now Florida-based human rights advocate Wendy Doromal said the CNMI has "such a terrible record for such a small population."

Doromal said granting status to the legal, long-term nonresident workers would help to alleviate the human trafficking problem and eliminate the need for another poorly run and underfunded federal program in the distant CNMI, including the proposed CNMI-only guest worker program.

"I predict that such a program will not end the problems that were so prevalent in the corrupt CNMI program, but will merely shift the responsible offending party from the CNMI to the federal government," she said in her blog.

Besides the CNMI, four other U.S. insular areas were included in the State Department report on human trafficking. They were Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Federal authority over these areas resides in the U.S. Department of the Interior, which participated in the President's Interagency Task Force in 2010.

"The insular areas are a destination for men and women subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution," it says.

In Guam, the U.S. Department of Justice prosecuted a multi-victim sex trafficking case, convicting a karaoke bar owner who forced multiple young women from Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia and one juvenile girl into prostitution.

The report says there continues to be concern that a military buildup in Guam could involve labor exploitation and trafficking of the thousands of guest workers expected. The report adds that federal entities made efforts to have this considered in the planning stages.

It says DOJ led a coordinated effort to identify human trafficking cases, provide services to victims, and bring the traffickers to justice in Guam and the CNMI.

"Uniquely, this effort included participation of foreign consulates from source countries and cross-training with investigators and other government officials from other Pacific jurisdictions," the report says.

In American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, there were no new reported human trafficking cases in 2010.

The report says the American Samoa legislature did not pass a bill, introduced in October 2009, which would have criminalized human trafficking as a felony offense.

It says Puerto Rico had no local anti-trafficking law but there was an outstanding proposal to revise the penal code to include trafficking.

TINIAN

From Page 1

ily agree to speak on condition of anonymity.

The management of the hotel and casino has been saying that they are trying their best to meet payroll on time.

One of the employees also said despite charter flights to Tinian, many of the tourists do not play in the casino.

Payless paydays are rampant in the CNMI mostly because of lack of tourists which is the main economic driver, and the high costs of utilities and other basic consumer products.

Even the CNMI central government has been delayed in paying its non-critical government employees. These employees are expected to get their paycheck on Wednesday, or days after their Thursday and Friday payroll.

Tinian municipal employees rely on casino revenues for their payroll, which amounts to about $48,000 every two weeks.

In related news, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said Saipan lawmakers should allow Saipan voters to decide whether through an initiative whether they want casino gambling to be legalized on their island.

A local bill seeking to legalize casino operations on Saipan is under review by two committees of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

But members of the House leadership, including Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said casino operation will prosper more on Saipan than on Tinian or Rota because Saipan has more readily available amenities such as direct flights, golf courses, and water parks.

During Tenorio's term as governor, the CNMI central government loaned over $3.353 million to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission in 1997 as "seed money" for Tinian's casino industry.

With only three repayments totaling $250,000, the Tinian commission still owes the central government over $3.103 million.

The House leadership said Tinian Dynasty also owes the central government some $30 million in taxes. This debt is incurred only by Dynasty's hotel, because its casino pays dues to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

For members of the House majority who support a local Saipan casino bill, Tinian's casino operation only benefit Tinian and not the whole CNMI.

But the Tinian mayor said this is not true. He said Tinian Dynasty-bound tourists stay first on Saipan and spend on the island, before they are brought to Tinian.

FUND

From Page 3

for some "pet projects" be given to the Fund but to no avail.

Pursuant to the court judgment in 2009, the government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid employer contribution. Due to this delinquency, the agency was forced to withdraw from its investments to cover the expenses amounting between $50 million and $75 million annually.

"We need to do something. The Fund needs cash and we need to make decisions," said Igisomar, adding that the court order would create "a lot of imbalance" on the pension program.

Marja Lee Taitano and Donna Cruz, retirees who appeared in Friday's emergency Fund meeting, called on the board to make a wise decision.

They expressed their disappointment on the decision made by Govendo, and reported to the board that many retirees were also upset on the judgment.

Taitano also asked the board to look into the "legality" of the decision made by Govendo, whom she believes may have some conflict of interest.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

2011 CNMI Liberation Queen Joni Francesca Cruz Castro, second left on front row, is joined by her Royal Court, the 2010 Liberation Queen and Royal Court, and other guests after being crowned Saturday evening.

Castro, rest of Royal Court start their reign

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Family members, friends, and the rest of the community witnessed the 65th Liberation Day Royal Court Coronation Ceremony held at the carnival grounds last July 2, which marked the beginning of the three candidates' reign as ambassadors of goodwill for the islands.

Saturday's ceremony started with the posting of colors by the Dolphin Batallion JROTC Color Guards of Marianas High School, followed by the invocation led by Fr. Ryan Jimenez.

The Umang Glee Club from Koblerville Elementary School sang the U.S. and CNMI national anthems, while L.J. Castro served as master of ceremony.

Clad in a strapless olive green grown bought by her sister from Arizona, 2011 CNMI Liberation Queen Joni Francesca Cruz Castro strut on the red carpet for her royal procession after receiving her crown, red cloak, sash, and bouquet of flowers from Island Florals and Gifts.

Also crowned that night were 2011 CNMI Liberation Royal Princess Nizelynn Teregeyo Masayos and First Runner-up Princess Mariah Dina Indalecio Ada.

Castro, Masayos, and Ada were named winners of the fundraising competition Wednesday night.

Mayor Donald G. Flores, in his remarks, said the "beautiful and elegant candidates" not only exemplify poise, beauty, and strength but also possess the values of humility, kindness, and hard work.

"I would like to personally thank each of you for your efforts and devotion. You have certainly contributed much to the success of our Liberation festivities," said Flores as he also thanked their families who also worked hard for the three young ladies.

The 2011 CNMI Liberation Queen and Royal Court were serenaded by local musician Walter Manglona with his song, "It's You I Miss," from his latest album.

The three were joined on stage by 2010 CNMI Liberation Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua and her Royal Court, Royal Princess Rayna Anabeth Deleon Guerrero Chong and First Runner-up Angela Bermudes Aldan.

Quitugua, who did her farewell walk with the assistance of her sisters, Nica and Ayana, said her reign was filled with happiness and enjoyment and taught her a lot of things.

"This experience strengthened my self-esteem and enlightened my knowledge about the community around us," she said. "There is nothing more valuable than having this opportunity to be a role model to many."

For her part, 2011 Liberation Queens Committee chair Vinycia Seman expressed her appreciation to the community and pride for this year's Queen and Royal Court.

"The Liberation Committee could not be any more proud of these three ladies… and we hope that you continue to support our Queen and her Royal Court over the coming months so they may dutifully fulfill their role as ambassadors of goodwill for the CNMI," she said.

2011 Liberation Committee overall chair Jonas Barcinas, in an interview, said the three candidates have shown maturity and professionalism which are traits of good ambassadors.

He also commended the candidates for having collected over $11,000 in ticket sales despite the hardship affecting the entire community.

"Liberation Day denotes the people's freedom 65 years ago, which is why we're celebrating this event. Tonight is a testimony of how wonderful our diverse community is as we embrace and support each other in commemorating this important occasion," added Barcinas.

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Veteran, book author says he loves the 'new Saipan'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Retired Major Rick Spooner of the U.S. Marine Corps returned to Saipan for the first time since 1944 to promote his second book, "A Marine Anthology in the Spirit of Semper Fidelis."

The book is the second one he wrote about World War II, which begins at Belleau Wood in France and travels through the Philippines, China, and Haiti, and talks more about the Japanese side of the war. Retail price for the book is $32.95.

The first book was "The Spirit of Semper Fidelis: Reflections from the Bottom of an Old Canteen Cup," which also costs $32.95.

Spooner held a book signing event at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on July 2.

Before the event, Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner presented Spooner a cake made by Herman's Modern Bakery depicting his second book which he signed on top using cake icing.

"Initially, I never thought of writing a book," Spooner told reporters. "I had no interest in writing a book. But a publisher came to me and asked me if I would and heard about some classes that I held for Marines on history and he said he thought it should be written up."

According to Spooner, it was never difficult for him to write the book. "But sometimes, I'd feel emotional as I wrote the books."

Spooner talked about how he remembered Saipan during the war. "When I first saw Saipan, I thought I'd gone to hell. It was miserable. It was an awful place. The smell of death was everywhere."

Spooner, who became a Marine private in 1942, felt very lucky having survived the war and served in the Marine Corps until his retirement in 1972.

"You never stop being a Marine. It's not a job, it's a vocation—like being a priest. You never stop," he said.

Spooner disclosed that he is working on his third book, a novel, which will touch on the Marines' mission in Shanghai, China in the 1930s.

Aside from writing a book, Spooner also runs a restaurant, Globe & Laurel, at the Marine Base in Quantico, Virginia with his wife Gloria.

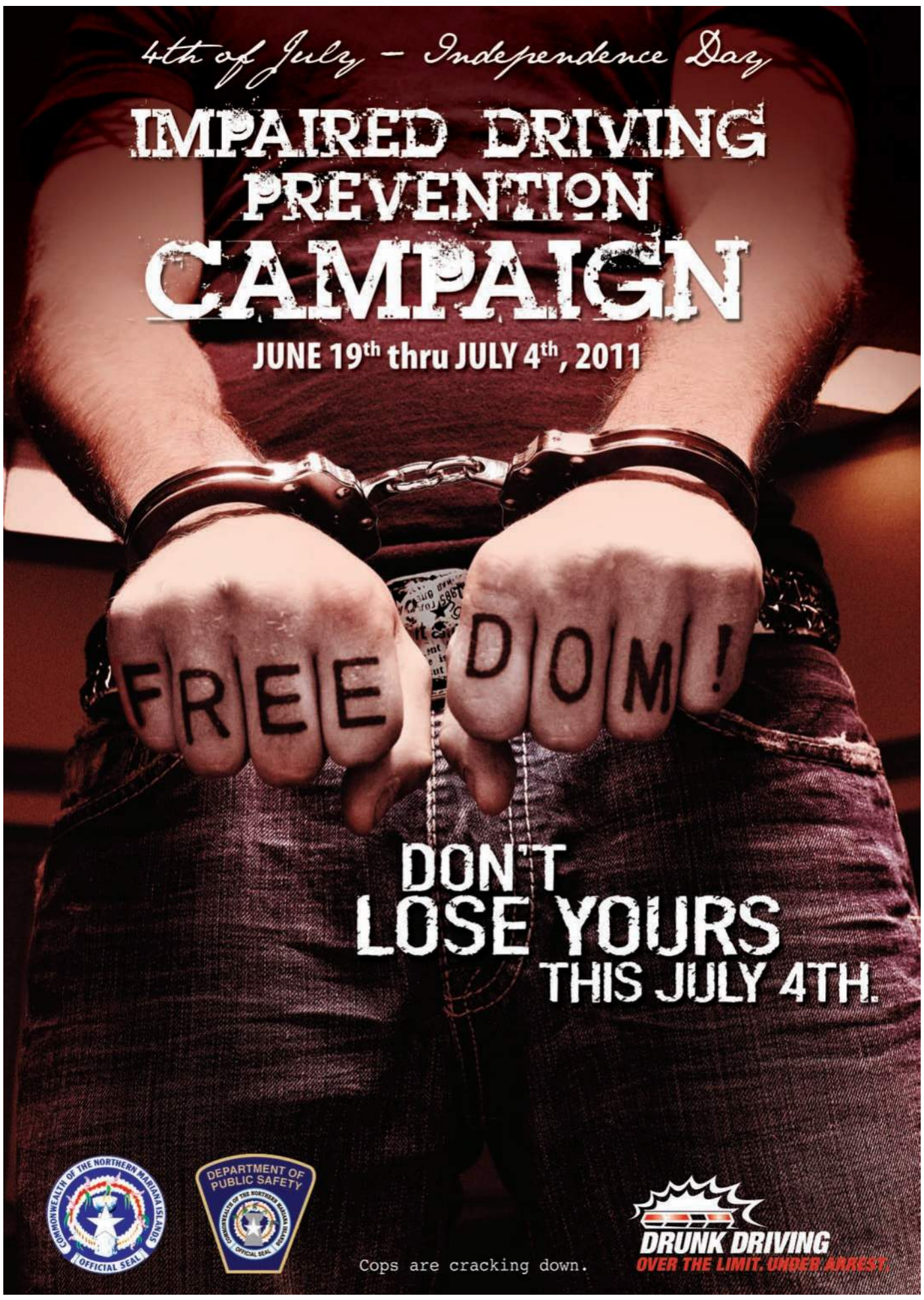
Spooner said one out of his four children is also a retired Marine Major, while three out of 17 grandchildren are also Marines.

Now that he's back for a visit, Spooner said he loves the new Saipan.

"I think Saipan is so different. I come here now and it smells good, it smells clean. No smell of death. It's wonderful," said Spooner.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ret. Major Rick Spooner of the U.S. Marine Corps uses icing to sign a cake in the image of his second book, "A Marine Anthology in the Spirit of Semper Fidelis," as Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner looks on during the book signing event at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Saturday.



Families camp out for Fourth of July Parade

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Families regard the annual Liberation Day festivities not only as an occasion to commemorate the time when Camp Susupe was set free after the war but also as an opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones.

Notwithstanding yesterday's rainfall, several families set up tents as early as Sunday morning to camp out in preparation for the much-anticipated Fourth of July Parade which kicks off at about 10am today.

Utz Billy of Gualo said in an interview that they put up their tent yesterday on the lot next to the *Saipan Tribune* office.

"We always watch the parade but this will be the first time that we're camping out so we can get a good spot where we will watch the parade," said Billy.

Billy, who was with family members at their tent yesterday, said they own the lot where they set up the tent so they decided as a family to go camp out this year for the parade.

Utz Billy's father, Richard Billy, said that while Liberation Day is important for the native people of the Commonwealth, it is also a chance for the family to spend quality time together during the long weekend.

"It is very important that we gained our freedom, but we also see it as family time," said Richard Billy, adding that they brought beers and barbecue for the event.

Utz Billy added, "Whatever the outcome of the parade will be, the most important thing is that our family is together to enjoy the Liberation Day Parade."

Kagman resident Canice Kapileo said this is the second year that their family camped out for the Fourth of July Parade.

"It was actually the older kids in the family who coordinated this camping. We paid $10 for the use of the lot and another $10 for the use of the pavilion last Thursday," he said.

While Liberation Day is viewed as a family gathering especially by their younger members, Kapileo noted the need to observe the importance of the occasion.

"Most of the kids these days don't understand what Liberation Day is and it's very important that they know their history," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Kapileo said this is the reason why they brought the new generation of their family, including Daniel Suel, Khalia Palacios Castro, and Angel Palacios. "More family members are expected to join us [yesterday and today]," he added.

The annual Liberation Day parade culminates the month-long festivities organized by the Saipan Mayor's Offie.

The theme for the 2011 Liberation Day celebration is "A Band of Arms Liberating Communities to Freedom, the Island Way."

This year, four groups are expected to participate in the float competition which will be joined by other organizations that will take part in the parade which will end at the carnival grounds across from Kristo Rai Church.

The community is advised that the northbound lane of Beach Road starting from Quartermaster intersection up to Bank of Guam will be closed to traffic at 7am.

BOE opposes 10-year contract for PSS employees

»Says proposed amendment to education law unconstitutional

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education is strongly opposed to amending the existing education law that would allow Public School System employees to be given 10-year contracts to protect from termination without cause.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) introduced House Bill 17-182, which amends the Education Act of 1988, in the height of the controversy over the alleged firing of over 20 highly qualified teachers by Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison.

This legislation requires PSS to adopt and administer a merit personnel system so that all terminations and non-renewals are processed through an adopted grievance proceeding "and only with cause." In the bill's findings, Torres said PSS employs many teachers and staff members who have "no due process protections when it comes to the termination of their employment."

Board counsel George Hasselback said the board has three strong contentions in the proposed measure.

He said the only legislative justification that was offered on the bill was that there was no due process protection on PSS employees which he claimed is entirely inaccurate. Hasselback said PSS has a very comprehensive due process protection for personnel which is built in to its regulations such as regulation in employee discipline and employee grievances.

These, and other related policies, will be provided to the Legislature to prove that the bill's justification is inaccurate.

Hasselback said the passage of the bill would also result in extremely burdensome obligations on PSS because it would create an instant permanent 10-year tenure for every PSS employee.

This means, he said, PSS would not be able to transfer an employee, hire employees freely, and terminate employee when necessary without resorting to a for cause situation.

In essence, he said, this would paralyze the school system. The school system provides two-year employment contract to its personnel including classroom teachers.

The education board also described the legislation as unconstitutional because it would impermissibly interfere with PSS ability to govern itself. The Constitution specifically vested the responsibility in running public schools to BOE through the education superintendent who is the education commissioner.

Ex-trustee says one of Hillbroom's former attorneys hiding in Vietnam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The former trustee of JLH Trust (Junior Larry Hillbroom) has claimed that attorney Barry J. Israel, one of the former lawyers of Hillbroom, is hiding in Vietnam.

JLH former trustee Keith Waibel, through counsels G. Patrick Civille and Robert T. Torres, told the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Hillbroom has demonstrated that all conventional attempts to serve Israel with summons have proved fruitless because Israel is hiding in Vietnam.

For this reason, Waibel asked the district court to allow him to serve the summons and his cross-claim against Israel by eletronic mail and registered mail.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom.

Hillbroom has sued Israel in federal court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings. Waibel was also named co-defendant in the lawsuit for negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, and racketeering activity.

Waibel denied the allegations and filed a cross-claim against Israel in federal court.

In his cross-claim, Waibel disclosed that Israel and attorney David J. Lujan obtained approximately $38 million in fees and costs from JLH Trust by increasing their contingency fee without Hillbroom's knowledge. As a result, Hillbroom's portion of the trust was drastically reduced to approximately $12 million.

In Waibel's support of motion for alternative service on Israel, Torres and Civille said Israel has not yet entered an appearance in this matter and the same impediment to service which confronted Hillbroom also confronts Waibel.

"Waibel has no better means of contacting Israel than Plaintiff (Hillbroom) did and knows of no other way to serve Israel except by email," Torres and Civille said.

Hillbroom allegedly spent substantial time, resources, and costs attempting to serve Israel by hand, including hiring people in Vietnam to stake out his property and attempt to serve him there.

Torres and Civille said there was ample evidence that Israel evaded service in Hillbroom's lawsuit filed against Israel in the Central District of California, by hiding out in Vietnam.

Torres and Civille said a California District judge allowed Hillbroom to serve Israel with summons by email.

In Waibel's case, Torres and Civille said there is little doubt that Israel is aware of the pending claims against him and has been evading service fleeing to and remaining in Vietnam and refusing to leave his compound there.

Professional process server hired by Hillbroom allegedly located Israel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The process server attempted to serve the lawyer in Vietnam without success.

Torres and Civille said the U.S. and Vietnam have no international agreement governing service of process.

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Man in domestic violence gets 14 days in jail

A man who allegedly repeatedly punched his son after the boy tried to stop him from beating up his mother at their home in Dandan, has entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 14 days in prison.

Sumit Dhakal, 30, signed a plea agreement with the Office of the Attorney General. He pleaded guilty to the charge of disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted Dhakal's guilty plea last Wednesday.

The defendant was sentenced to six months in prison, all suspended except 14 days. He was given credit for the seven days he already served in jail.

Dhakal was ordered to start serving the remaining seven days at the Department of Corrections on July 8, 2011 at 8am.

After completing the jail term, the defendant will be placed on probation for two years. He was required to pay a $250 fine, $150 probation fee, plus court costs.

Govendo ordered Dhakal to submit to mental examination focusing on anger management.

The OAG filed an information on April 4, 2011 charging Dhakal with child abuse, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Dhakal and counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, signed a plea agreement with the government. In exchange for pleading guilty to disturbing the peace, assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu, as counsel for the government, agreed to dismiss the remaining charges. The prosecutor also agreed to not move to revoke defendant's probation in a previous criminal conviction in 2010.

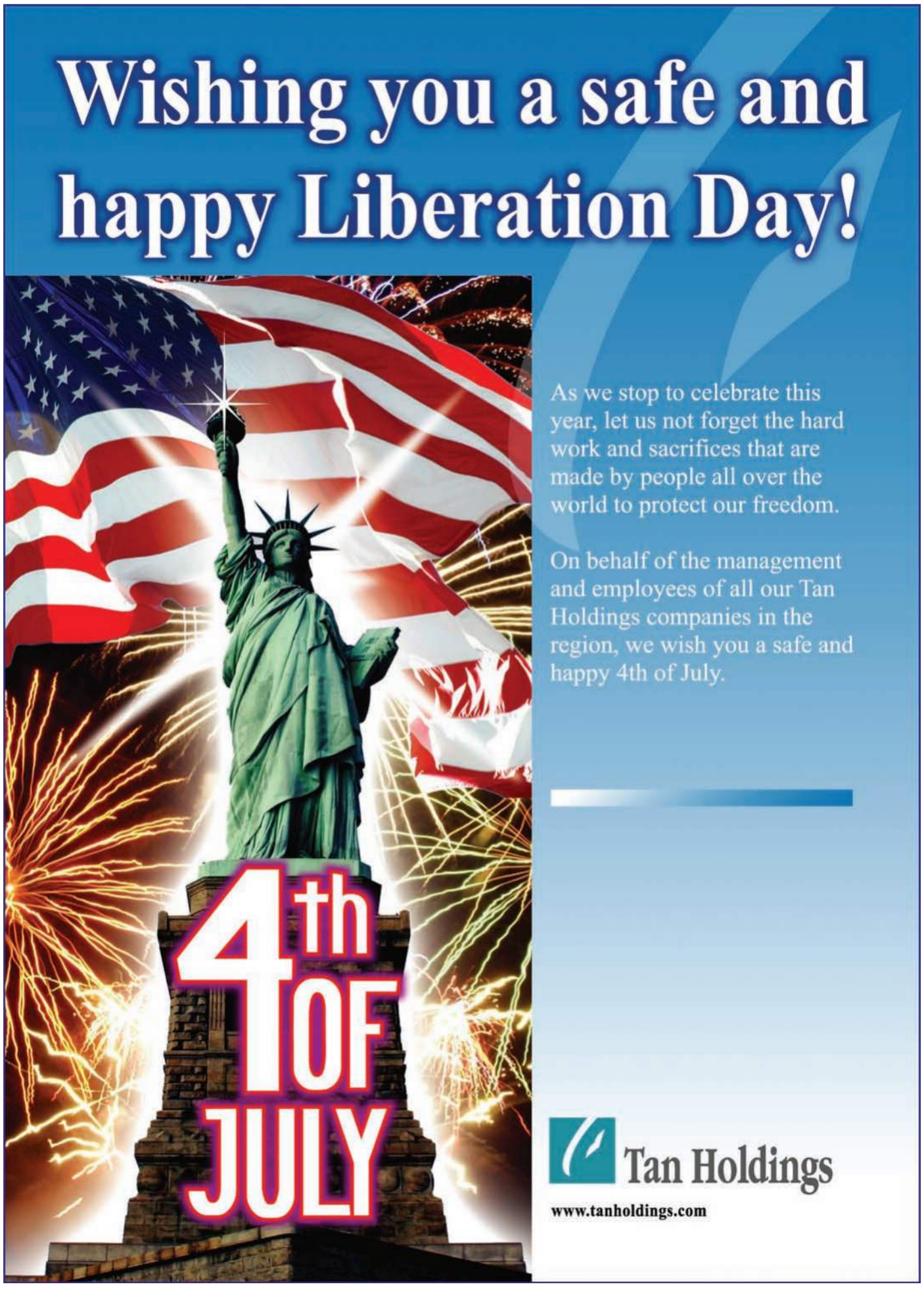
According to the plea agreement, on March 26, 2011, Dhaka disturbed the peace of his wife and their minor son.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that the wife sustained a cut on her left foot after Dhakal broke a shelf and threw a broken piece at her, hitting her left foot.

Hearing the noise, the son came into the room to stop his father, but Dhakal allegedly punched the boy five times in the head and once in the face. It was the wife who called police.

In May 2010, police also arrested Dhakal for allegedly beating up his wife and resisted efforts by police to apprehend him at their residence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 4, 2000

Government's unpaid bills taking toll on CUC

The government's failure to settle its $12 million debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is beginning to pinch the autonomous agency as officials yesterday expressed fear over its impact on their financial condition. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero issued anew his appeal to the Tenorio administration to begin payment of its CUC obligations in light of the recent financial report that showed slimming margin between expenses and revenues of the government-owned utility corporation. While rising fuel price has increased its operational costs, CUC largely blamed the financial strains to failure by the government to pay the overdue billings that have incurred since the last quarter of 1997.

MHS to adopt block scheduling

Starting this school year, Marianas High School is set to adopt an alternative form of class scheduling intended to fortify student learning at Saipan's lone public high school. Block scheduling, a scheme embraced by 50 percent of mainland schools, presents many advantages for both students and faculty, according to the MHS administration. This non-traditional form of scheduling allows students more hours to absorb knowledge they acquire in the classroom as they are given approximately 95 minutes to spend for one period.

July 4, 2001

Torres wants Wiseman impeached

As he had earlier promised, Rep. Stanley Torres provided the Legislature what he called the "smoking gun" in the alleged bribery case involving Superior Court Judge David Wiseman. During yesterday's session, Torres distributed to lawmakers in the House of Representatives documents that allegedly showed that Wiseman was involved in a bribery deal with an employee of the CUC to bring down the electric billings of the former Surf Hotel, of which he was then its legal counsel. The unnamed employee was earlier identified as Jesus Sasamoto. Torres then urged his fellow legislators to impeach Wiseman, based on the documents. The 34-page packet of documents contained photocopied letters and reports of Acting US Attorney D. Paul Vernier Jr. to the Attorney General dated December 18, 1989 and September 4, 1990, where he said that his office has learned of possible violations by Wiseman of the Commonwealth Code Title 6, Articles §1601 (theft) and §3201 (bribery).

Tighter snake plan for Tinian sought

The US Department of the Interior urged the Federal Aviation Administration to work closely with brown tree snake experts to carry out a program that would help prevent interdiction of the reptile on Tinian. US-DOI Fish and Wildlife Service Field Supervisor Paul Henson asked FAA and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to coordinate with the CNMI Fish and Wildlife in instituting a comprehensive Brown Tree Snake Plan for Tinian. "Work closely with experts to ensure that the Brown Tree Snake Plan minimizes the potential for the snake to become established on Tinian," said Henson in a letter to CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios.

July 4, 2002

NMI to get another anti-terrorism grant

Emergency response teams from different local government agencies yesterday attended a bioterrorism workshop conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This developed as reports reaching Saipan disclosed the CNMI would be receiving another form of assistance as part of the nation's efforts to fight terrorism-this time from the U.S. Department of Justice. The justice department announced that the Commonwealth would be receiving $92,000 from its Office of Justice Programs. The grant is intended for the purchase of equipment to enhance local capability to respond to acts of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction-whether biological or chemical agents, nuclear or radiological materials, or other explosives.

Cing slams new retro wage hike law

Sen. David M. Cing has described as discriminatory the recently passed local law that exclusively provides for the retroactive salary hikes of former and current government employees on Saipan. Cing urged Senate President Paul A. Manglona to correct what he perceives as the inequity of Saipan Local Law 13-8, or else he would single-handedly take on the task of fighting for the rights of the deserving employees on Tinian and Rota.

Get your caffeine fix at newly opened Café@Casa

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WHAT'S COOKING?

Discover a newly opened hang-out spot in the Garapan district where it's worth spending your coffee dollars with family and friends: Café@Casa.

This lovely coffee shop is secretly nestled behind Kristo Rai Church, right where the famous and very homey restaurant Casa Urashima can be found, as the two establishments are owned by the same proprietor, Osamu Taniguchi.

"I am a coffee lover," reveals Taniguchi to *Saipan Tribune* in an interview on Friday.

Taniguchi said Café@Casa came about when he hired a new manager to take care of the Casa Urashima after 10 years of running and managing the restaurant himself.

"With the new free time I got, I thought of what will be my latest project and I came up with Café@Casa," he said.

Café@Casa serves single origin coffee or coffee with a single known geographical origin.

"Sometimes, this geographical origin is a single farm or a specific collection of beans from a single country," Taniguchi explained. "Single origins are the way to get a specific taste and flavor of coffee."

Taniguchi disclosed that Café@Casa regularly offers at least three different types of single origin coffee which are imported from Portland.

"We change our single origin coffee menu constantly to let our customers try out different kinds of coffee," he said.

Taniguchi, who single-handedly runs Café@Casa, guarantees its patrons only the finest and freshest coffee in every cup. "Each of the coffee we serve has a distinct flavor. I believe the freshness of coffee is very important," he added.

Presently, Café@Casa serves single origin coffee from Duromina Cooperative in Ethiopia, Helsar de Zarcero from Costa Rica, and Sulawesi coffee from Indonesia.

Each cup of about 220ml of coffee costs $5.

Soon, Taniguchi said, Café@Casa will be serving organic coffee and other single origin coffee from different parts of the world as well.

To complement its single origin coffee fare, Café@Casa also serves a roster of delightfully filling and highly affordable desserts at $2 per serving that could perfectly cap a satisfying luncheon.

With the opening of Café@Casa just about three weeks ago, Taniguchi said the coffee shop has been doing so far so good as it already has regulars, most of whom are either friends or Casa Urashima diners.

Taniguchi said Café@Casa will just be a small cafe—for now.

"I'm still observing the market, especially since most businesses on island are down. But I'm open to the idea of expanding Café@Casa, perhaps even serving dishes in the future. We'll see," he said.

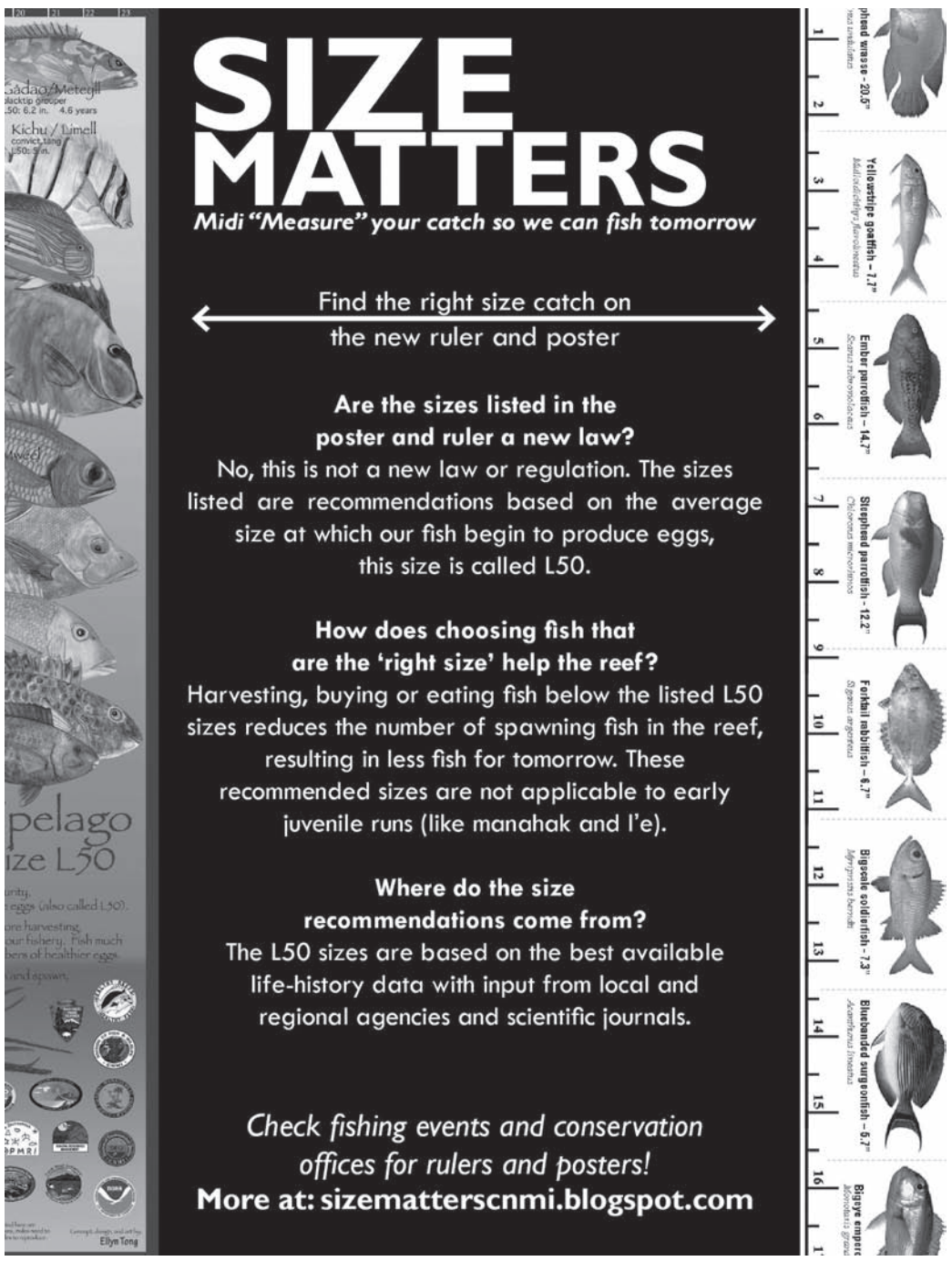
Taniguchi encouraged all coffee enthusiasts to check out the latest coffee shop in town. "Visit us at Café@Casa and try our authentic single origin coffee with your family and friends."

Café@Casa is located at the house behind Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. They are open from Monday to Saturday, 12:30pm-5pm. For information, call 233-3303 or email urashima@pticom.com.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Cafe@Casa owner Osamu Taniguchi serves a single origin coffee at his cafe on Saturday afternoon. The latest coffee shop in town is open from Monday to Saturday, from 12:30pm to 5pm.

OSHA TRAINING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors' technical staff recently completed OSHA Workplace Compliance and Safety Training courses administered by Guam-based Professional Training Technology, Inc. Pictured above, the "Customers First" staff members are shown with their certificates of completion for numerous workplace safety training sessions.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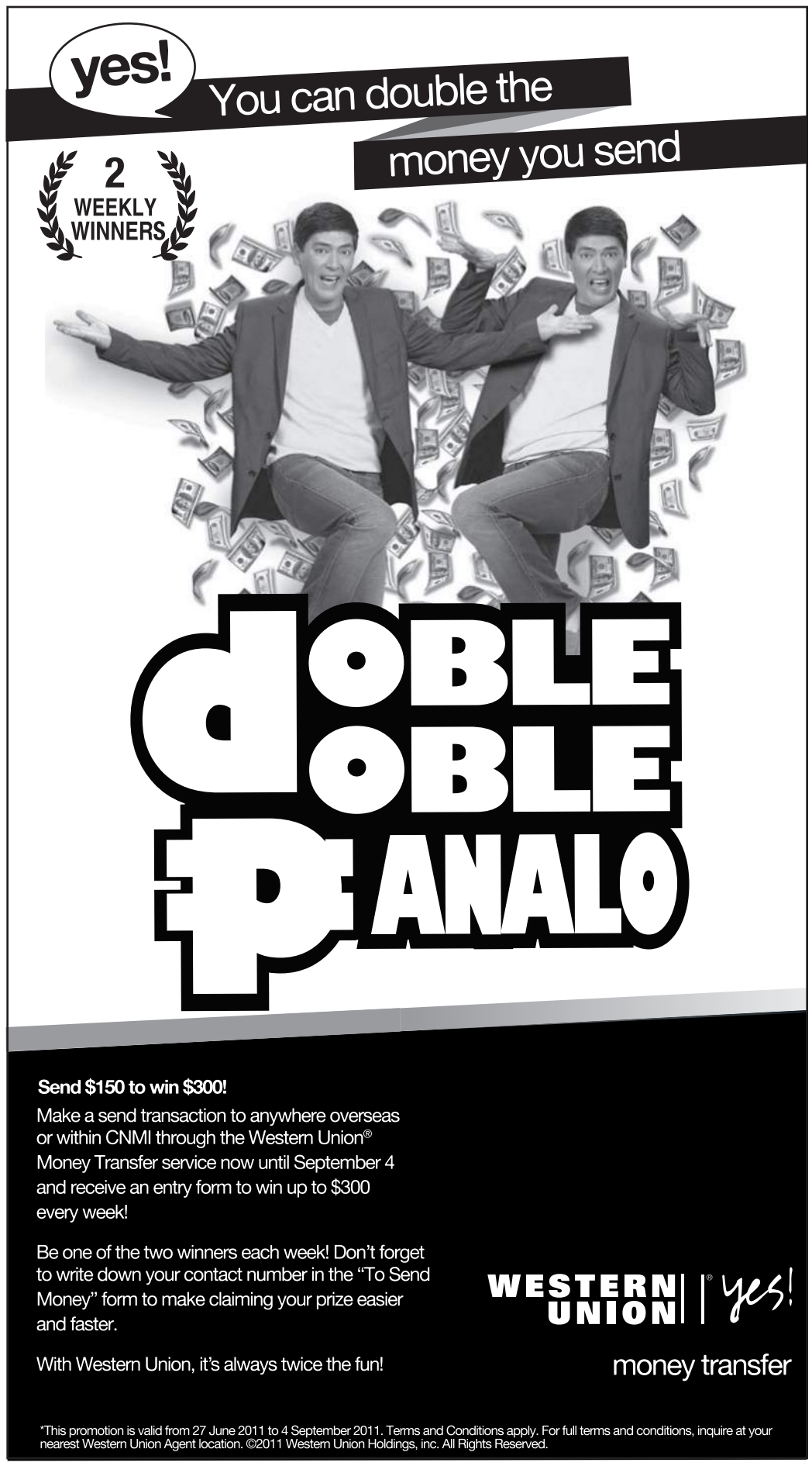
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

How to depose Gadhafi

Moammar Gadhafi is a fitting target for the arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court. Whatever one's opinion of the court—and the Los Angeles Times' editorial board has been divided on the subject—the charges lodged against the Libyan strongman and two relatives dramatize the worldwide condemnation of Gadhafi's war against his own people. He is now formally what he has been in fact since the Arab Spring came to Libya: an outlaw.

The grounds for the warrant, according to the court, are that Gadhafi allegedly committed crimes against humanity _ specifically murder and persecution. Judges said there was sufficient evidence that he, his son and his brother-in-law ordered the killing and imprisonment of hundreds of civilians in February.

But although the charges against Gadhafi bring moral clarity to the discussion of his conduct, we're sorry the court went through with them. We take this view not because of any particular doubts about Gadhafi's guilt but because the warrants against him and his relatives could complicate efforts to reach a political solution under which he would step down. The International Crisis Group, a nonprofit organization that aims to resolve international conflicts, stated the problem clearly: "To insist that he both leave the country and face trial in the International Criminal Court is virtually to ensure that he will stay in Libya to the bitter end and go down fighting."

A political solution is an option NATO and the United States should keep on the table, offensive as the idea of Gadhafi enjoying a pleasant retirement may be.

In the absence of such a deal, it's not all that unlikely that Gadhafi would end up killed in one of NATO's air raids. That would be too bad, partly because the NATO mission is ostensibly intended to protect civilians, but also because Gadhafi is not Osama bin Laden, and his killing would no doubt lead to widespread criticism. Better to seek a negotiated settlement.

How to deal with dictators guilty of human rights abuses is a familiar dilemma, pitting those who prize justice above all against pragmatists who believe that exile for a despicable leader—even exile in comfort—is preferable to continued oppression and violence. There is no single right answer, but in the case of Libya, a political settlement that ensured the departure of Gadhafi—international outlaw or not—would be justified.

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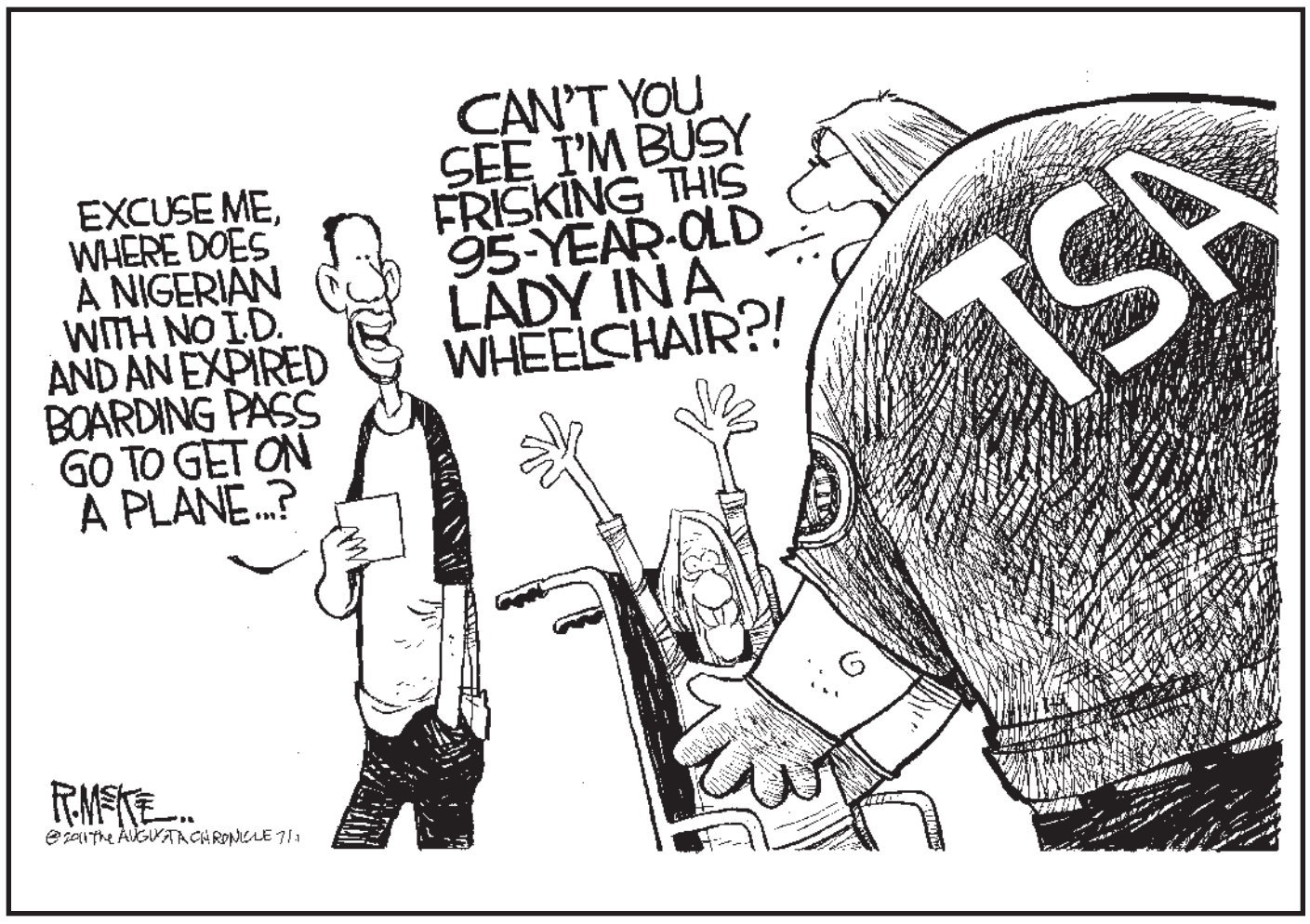
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The youth of the CNMI—where is it headed?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Do any of us know or think about where the youth of the CNMI is headed? This morning let's discuss this vital issue for the conclusions will predict what the CNMI will be like in the future?

Is anyone undertaking a survey to measure what the youth of the CNMI are planning to do with their lives and the problems facing them? Are we considering what their thoughts and plans are? Their attitudes about the world around them? The impact of the Internet on them? And the blending of races in our community? The lack of opportunities? What are the reasons they are not coming back after schooling in the United States? These are some of the real issues that we should be addressing. Are we?

Isn't the better understanding our youth important enough so that we can plan where we will be in the next few years? Unless our youth are imbedded with positive and optimism for the future, will the CNMI be a good place to live? What if the young keep moving away? What type of youth remains?

Since the Northern Marianas Trades Institute began some three years ago, I have seen over 400 students of various ages troop in and out of it. I am happy to report that some of them are still with us. But too many simply dropped out. As hard as we have tried we have not been able to find the causes for the many dropouts.

One of NMTI's most cooperative agencies, the Workforce Investment Agency, has been funding many students who passed their assessment. But I am sad to report that many of these students simply varnished even after their tuition was fully paid for.

After pleading with many recipients of NAP food stamps to attend the institute while receiving food stamps, few take advantage. For example, we recruit about 60 students then when the start date arrives only two or three show up!

SHEFA reports that almost none of the students that attend college off-island return to live and work here. They prefer to stay in the United States. I honestly don't blame them. Tell me what is there for a young educated boy or girl to return to here? Are they to be shuffled into a dull government job and hibernate until retirement? Even that job is no longer attractive to the older citizen.

Where can a young person obtain a decent job with a decent future here? We still prefer having nonresident workers fill positions that offer any attraction. When will we change this and make opportunities for our own young people who would like to return here?

How many accountants are local college graduates? How many managers in various companies are local young men and women or even placed in a training position? But we have many nonresident workers filling those positions.

We are facing a great and frightening youth unemployment crisis and seem to be unaware of it. We have a generation of young workers who are in danger of being permanently sidetracked in the labor market and disconnected from society.

A recent issue of *Time Magazine* reports: "Research shows that the long-term unemployed tend to be depressed, suffer greater health problems and even a shorter life expectancy. In the U.S. the youth unemployment rate is now 24 percent compared with the overall rate of 9.1 percent. If and when these young people return to work, they'll earn 20 percent less over the next 15 to 20 years than peers who were employed." Doesn't this also apply to our youth in the CNMI? Do we know? Do we care?

One of the most needed is the training of our youth to become technically trained in the multitude of industries. We need plumbers, electricians, air conditioning technicians, computer specialists, accountants, managers, painters, teachers, nurses, doctors—the list goes on and on. Notice the list includes both academic and technical trained personnel. I recently studied a list of occupations that numbered over 900. How many of these do you think exist here?

Every year, as we did recently, we witness a great number of students graduating from schools and colleges. Where do they go? Shouldn't we be concerned? How can we stop this brain drain? How can we motivate our youth to fill in the places that we are or will be vacating soon?

Let's look at some of the problems facing youth today. If we recall our own youth, we remember that these were the same for us. How have we coped with them? What assistance and guidance did we receive?

Perhaps the most fundamental problem faced by young people is unemployment. Many of the jobs previously available have been eliminated through technology or exported to lower paying wage countries. As a result unemployment creates financial worries, frustration, and discouragement. Therefore many youth cannot cope with the situation and go into an undesirable direction of delinquency, drugs, vandalism, stealing, etc.

Another problem facing young people is the tension which exists between parents and children. It is common for strained relationships to develop between parents and young people. This can be seen especially in families of lower income. Too often we parents forget that what the child sees us do he thinks is the accepted norm. I feel so sad when I read about husband abuse of the wife. The youth sees this and when he becomes an adult he feels it is the norm on how to treat a woman.

Teenager pregnancies and venereal diseases are also common problems facing the youth. As a result of any early pregnancy, both the male and female greatly eliminate their opportunities for growth and education. Perhaps the most important is the risk of catching the

See THE YOUTH on Next Page

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The Fourth of July

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The founding fathers' collective experience of European monarchs imposing a state religion with the same rationale as Constantine had for Christianity in the Roman Empire, had the separation of church and state clarified in the U.S. Constitution.

Ecclesiastical bodies posed a problem in Europe but to avoid repeating a mistake, the U.S. threw the bath water without much provision for the baby. Religion serves to rehearse the dramaturgy of life's meaning and significance; America left that in the region of individual conscience. Beliefs replaced liturgy, elevated by the Cartesian dictum of "I think, therefore, I am." It did serve the function of moving religious battles out of the shooting fields to the pulpits and the podia of public debates.

Bereft of dramaturgical commonality, the United States government replaced it with legal holidays. The Chamber of Commerce made Christmas a consumer fest, and Hallmark sanctified Thanksgiving along with other commemorative occasions all the way from mothers/fathers' day to the recognition of office administrative assistants.

The Fourth of July thus comes closest to being a "religious" ritual of the American covenant and communion freighting the national understanding of its raison d'etre—of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The American revolt managed to shake off Brit George's sovereign rule to tax his subjects to pay for his war expenses. That his war happened to be against France is ironic since Paul Revere, the crier hero of the revolution, was half French.

It became clear after the ragtag army of Virginian George sent the Red Coats back to Piccadilly that building a nation, let alone, running it, took some doing. The easy way out was to offer George W kingship of the new state. His intelligence overrode his ego, wisely declined, and left his name to later identify one of the nation's illustrious universities.

Columbian trade made lots of silver on the back of black slaves from the West Coast of Africa, particularly in the sugar and cotton fields. John Hancock of the well-known signature and head of the First Continental Congress inherited his uncle's wealth earned smuggling. JFK's dad was reputed to have done the same with rum during Prohibition. That is not totally un-American; after all, we label Phillip Morris today as a company with a social conscience! Tobacco and cotton were grown in the South on the forced labor of Sambo, Uncle Rufus, and Aunt Jemima.

American enterprise worships at the altar of the mighty buck, and at its inception, Wall Street's buccaneers and privateers understood the speculative value of real estate and its endless supply west of the Mississippi, so it did not take long before the railroad barons exploited cheap Chinese labor from the Gold Rush and laid rails from coast to coast. The Exclusion Act against the "yellow fever" later established immigrations' legal frame.

The Fourth of July is a beacon of hope embodying the Puritan's understanding of American exceptionalism, "the light upon the hill," adding "manifest destiny" when McKinley went down on his knees with Methodist missionaries heading for the Philippines to educate, civilize, and evangelize the poor natives.

Earlier, the third French Republic and the Portuguese, in a spurt of liberal impulse, took colonizing the world as a "mission to civilize." With the allure of the eastern Asian tiger about to be roasted and carved out by the European powers, the U.S. saw no problem in forcibly donning the lei of Aloha by ousting Hawaii's monarchy, buying Guam and the Philippines from Spain, and joined in feasting on the imperial table amidst the Qing's Queue and Qi Pao.

Western hubris intervened when France avenged its humiliation in the Franco-Prussian War. Austro-Hungary was humbled at the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the Great War 1914-18, and resentful Austrian corporal Aryan Adolf Hitler rose up to play the Great War games one more time. It was in these theatres that the Fourth of July added to its rationale of American exceptionalism and manifest destiny the "sacred service and sacrifice of our soldiers", a theme drummed loudly in many quarters today.

During 1976 bicentennial, colleagues extended the dynamic of broadening community participation in the political process to other societies around the world. My domains were Town Meeting USA, Community Forum Canada, and Community Forum Philippines. At the time, we were riding on the theme of a new declaration of global interdependence, way before Earth summits were held and the Earth charter written.

China's traditional input of fireworks to our celebrations will be missed in many states this year, but the reverse is true, presence of McDonald-KFC-Pizza Hut in many of China city's street corners make them look like Chinatown USA.

More profoundly, we watched President Hu Jintao admonish members of the CPC, the country's ruling political party, on its 90th year anniversary Friday, to weed out corruption from government and to establish the integrity of public service especially among the young in broadening political engagement and participation, a theme that sounded more like one given down Main St. on the fourth of July.

The Fourth of July is emerging in places sans USPS zip codes. How is it celebrated in your part of the glocal village? I am pulling out the old "America the Beautiful" song, and in the spirit of making the old new, and the new holy, sing the last line of verses one and four replacing "brotherhood" with: "And crown thy good with earthlihood/planethood."

Happy Interdependence Day!

Letters to the Editor

Better protecting our children

We know that in the case of child abduction the sooner investigation begins the higher the chance of finding the perpetrator and rescuing the child.

In the Luhk sisters' case whole day information available more quickly and perhaps help avoid further situations involving this tragic result.

Each school bus driver could be provided with a cell phone and a list of all the children who ride to school on his or her bus along with a list of phone numbers (home and work) of the parents or guardians of each child.

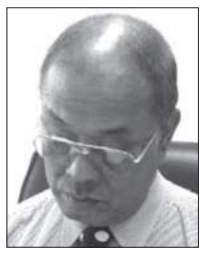
The bus driver would keep track each day of the children that board his or her bus in the morning and if any are absent immediately call the parent or guardian and notify them of the absences of their child.

In most cases the parent or guardian would probably be aware of their child's absence on the bus and the bus driver would be able to discount any problem.

In a case, however, like that of the Luhk sisters there would be immediate notice and perhaps immediate investigation leading to a positive result.

Loren A. Sutton
Papago

Maliñgon Konfiansa



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

'Nai maliñgu konfiansan kometsiante guine ni mandañkulu fiñkas niha, ensegidas ha huchom bisnis niha ya ha bira siha tatte gi tanu niha. Ha batsalan huyoñg kase $5 biyon pesos ni hagas patte gi halom ekonomian iya Marianas.

Este na sinisede i muna' dimu ekonomiata pagu. Estague' mina mas menos i pottanmonedan gobietnon iya Marianas. Hafa manchogue para u malimienda este na chinatsaga?

Lamegai siha na disareglu fumagchae' i los prohimu. Sumasaunau i taya' kabales na areglon hutnaleros ginen i gobietnon federat.

Mas finiñot este ni man-fatsu siha na areglon lai ni pumunu' appottunidat mamatinas ganansia gi man-bibisnis guine. 'Nai esta ni mona ni tatte, ha huchum pettan niha ya man-hanau tatte gi tanu' niha. I maliñguta ganan otru lugat siha gi oriyata. I kuestion: Kau ñgaian' talu na tiempu 'nai u milalag mage gi tano'ta man-dañkulu fiñkas kometsiante? Ni unu siña pumega kalulotña guine na haguha.

Ti hita ha' pumadese poduñg ekonomia. Kada unu gi estados siha giya America pinalolo'pu lokue' parehu pesti. Lau ensegidas manakonsutta hafa na programa appruebau ya matutuhon man-machochu'. Ha dobla ensegidas mañgas niha ya matutuhon pinetsigen ininan programa gi otru estados siha para umana fan setbe gi estados niha mismu.

Ta diseseha mohon na taiguine linistun niha i man-ma'gasta gi inakuden chechu' linahyan. Lau puru akton abarambau tat kumu "pantie" famalaon yan biskileta. De dios mihu! Masotta probleman ekonomia mientras man-bakasiosion giya Palau. Na ti man-manhula' hamyu para in' adelanta linala' linahyan?

Guaha este chechu'guenna lau debi u guaha fotmat na sensian kabayeru para ta fan arikohe pot para ta asegura na todus tumataitai parehu na pahina.

■■■

Pagu na haane i mina' sisientai siete años desde finagpu' geran dos guine. Megai man-dimalas guennau na gera, parehu ha' tautauta yan sindalu siha gi todu atmos banda. Dañkulu na destrosiu lau ni unu sumeha umaregla tatte linala' familia guine.

Mafattu siha kuestion gi fina' akomparasion tiempun Japones yan Amerikanu guine. Gi tiempun i mefe'na (Japones) metgot yan homlu ekonomiaña iya Marianas. Este na areglon Japones kumonfitma modun linala' natibu gi bandan kutturan tanu--fangualuan yan peskan tasi.

Matulaika este na modun linala' gi hinalom Amerikanu 'nai megai gi tautau-ta madiñgu offisiun hagas kuttura guine ya manmachochu' para i Navy yan Interior. Desde ayu na haane ti parehu esta plaset yan modun linala' guine sa' memegaiña man-hutnanat entalu gobietnu yan praibet.

Ta diñgu i asegurau na kutturan gualu yan peska pot para ta fan machochu' gi otru banda. Hu komprende i konbiñienten i mapresenta gi nuebu na modun lina'la'. Lau mampos pagu mueye yan ti asegurau modun linala'ta piot sa' siempre mas menos chochu' guine. Hafa mohon hinasson miyu?

■■■

Hu komprende naturat gi tautau 'nai tinetpe lache. Lau ti hu komprende para umaletke asuntu ni kabales fumafana' hit pot taya' fondu gi kahan iya Marianas.

Este na mañan lamegai gi man-ma'gasta i mas na'mamahlau sa' oppan mafanue i publiku na estague' un' asuntun linahyan ni sumen seriosu lau memegaiña lumeletke buente pot mapot i asuntu. Lau, seha un' ratu ya un sumurisa unu ya mana' daña yan unu siempre dos. Desde ñgaian na miyon i unu yan unu na kuentas elementariu? De dios mihu!

THE YOUTH

From Page 10

deadly disease of AIDS.

While many of our youth attend church today, an equal or even greater number do not attend. Also it has been noted that many youth are questioning the doctrines of the church and as a result begin seeking other means of spiritual satisfaction. This escape often leads to promiscuous conduct resulting in further failure to find happiness and fulfillment.

Another problem facing youth today is our adult hypocrisy. Too often our actions belie our words. We break promises. Too often we set bad examples while being leaders in our community. Is it any wonder that youth becomes disillusioned?

I have only touched on some of the more fundamental problems for young people. Through this discussion, I hope that it will serve as a vehicle for helping our young people today and to appreciate and understand the need to help them cope with their emerging lives. Hopefully the schools and other organizations will pick up on what I am discussing in this article. Let's begin motivating our youth or accept a worsening of the situation in the CNMI.

We constantly say that our young people are the leaders of tomorrow. Consequently it is incumbent that we as adults become aware of the need to guide them. We must be their mentors. Remember the youth reflect us—our beliefs, our actions! What are we showing them that they can emulate? Are we good role models? Unless we begin taking an interest now, we will be losing out most valuable asset—the youth who will make a better CNMI!

Unless we take a survey of what is running through their heads and what their fears and plans are, how can we plan for the future? Remember as we sow so we shall reap. Our youth are our future! Let's begin now to help them. Let the survey begin and let the action that should follow begin. Time is of the essence. Think—Where are the youth of the CNMI headed? Happy Fourth of July to all!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲84° ▼75°	▲85° ▼77°

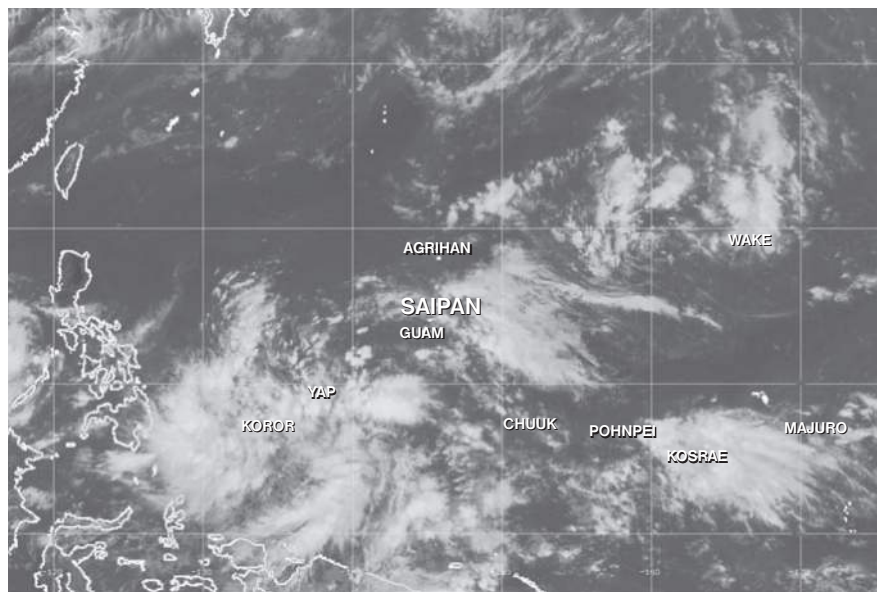
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲81	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼75
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲14	▼ 8
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲83	▼71
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Paris	Sunny	▲80	▼56
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲78	▼58
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲88	▼78
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲93	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 10n130e through a circulation centered west of palau near 8N134E to end at 3N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located between 3N and 10N from 130E to 141E and between 8N and 10N from 141E to 145E. Convergence south of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 3N from 135E to 146E. A surface trough stretched northwestward form the circulation to 10N133E to 17N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms were occurring 130 miles east and west of the trough. Converging winds are also generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of the Marianas between 11N and 18N from 146E to 152E. A surface trough is located near Kosrae and stretches from 3N164E to 7N164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
11:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:19 AM	9:09 PM
Tuesday	9:16 AM	9:54 PM
Wednesday	10:13 AM	10:37 PM
Thursday	11:09 AM	11:21 PM
Friday	12:06 AM	-

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Mother appeals 'unlawful' PSS decision

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The mother of a former Hopwood Junior High School student appealed to the Board of Education on Thursday to correct what she describes as an "unlawful" decision rendered by the Public School System in the case of her daughter.

Zenaida Cuerdo, who spoke during the board's public comment Thursday, said the office of Education Commissioner Rita Sablan did not remedy the wrongful action of Hopwood school administrators when they refused to name her daughter as the Board of Education awardee during her graduation in 2010. Instead, the student was awarded third honors.

"Hopwood Junior High unlawfully changed the rules after my daughter had already earned the award in order to be able to give it to someone else. The way they changed the rules was not legal, and the new system used is not fair or objective in any way," Cuerdo told the board members, who later told her they will look into the matter.

Cuerdo disclosed that her child's case was raised right after her graduation last year with the conduct of administrative hearings. Unsatisfied with the hearings' result, the mother appealed the decision to the commissioner's office, which affirmed the hearing's findings.

The BOE, Cuerdo said, has the responsibility to exercise control over the Public School System.

Saipan Tribune learned that Cuerdo was earlier informed by a BOE assistant that "there is no further administrative appeal," a remark she described as "highly improper" and an "insult" to her intelligence.

"Consideration of my appeal is precisely the kind of BOE role contemplated by the Constitution, which gives it the duty to formulate policy and exercise control over the PSS through the superintendent," said the mother.

Cuerdo plans to elevate the matter to court if her daughter is not accorded "justice." She claims that her daughter has been affected by the issue.

She gave the board some documents that she said prove how her appeal was "ignored" by PSS.

Cuerdo claimed that PSS' wrongful decision violated regulation 60-20-401. This pertains to altering the means of selecting the awardee after the third quarter grades are already known. In addition, she said the manner with which the criteria were changed did not conform with PSS regulation 60-20-43(d) or the Commonwealth Administrative Act.

Cuerdo told *Saipan Tribune* that her daughter's case is similar to that of Fannetta Nelson, who was accorded valedictorian honors after she died. She graduated in Westinghouse High School in 1936.

"This case is just like that of Fannetta Nelson. I hope my daughter does not have to wait as long for justice as Ms. Nelson did," said Cuerdo.

Cuerdo, in her testimony to the board, also accused some PSS officials of harassment and discrimination.

APAFS presents biggest yet Pacific investment conference

Are you confident in your knowledge to act as a steward of investment funds? Do you have the necessary tools to meet the changing and ever rising demands of beneficiaries? Do you have what it takes to become one of the most in-demand and highly sought after investment advisers in the Pacific?

These, and more, are all the important questions that will be addressed at the 11th Pacific Region Investment Conference that features for the first time, "one of the 10 most wanted designations in the Investment Industry" according to *U.S. Financial Planning Magazine*—the Accredited Investment Fiduciary, or AIF, Designation.

The 11th Pacific Region Investment Conference is the biggest investment conference to be organized by the *Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies* in its history, with its recent partnership with Fi360 Accredited Investment Fiduciary Training Program. The conference will also feature Blaine Aikin, president and chief executive officer of Fi360 and principal and chief investment officer of Allegiance Financial Advisors, as keynote speaker.

Aikin is an accredited investment fiduciary analyst, certified financial planner, and chartered financial analyst. He is the primary architect of the AIFA program and a major contributor to the development of the Fiduciary Excellence concept, which is the heart of Fi360 programs and services.

"We understand the behavior of the market that has become more cautious and apprehensive, thus, we see the need to have more knowledgeable investment advisers and trustees. We have partnered with Fi360, which provides the AIF Training Program, to further promote and allow these fund managers and trustees to step up to new levels of standards," said Daniel A. Roland, AIF, CIMA, executive director of APAFS.

The AIF Training Course is a 14.5-hour certification program that offers the AIF Designation to takers who will successfully pass a proctored exam and will take place two days prior to PRIC. AIF designees have a reputation in the industry for the ability to implement prudence into their investment processes because the training involves the mitigation of liabilities relevant to mismanagement of funds and inadequate knowledge of pertinent legislation and best practices.

APAFS now opens the registration for the PRIC and the Fi360 AIF Training Program, which will be held on Oct. 20-21, and Oct. 18-19, 2011, respectively. Both events will be held at the New World Makati City Hotel, the Philippines. Fees and more information about the AIF Training Program and the PRIC can be found at www.apafs.org.

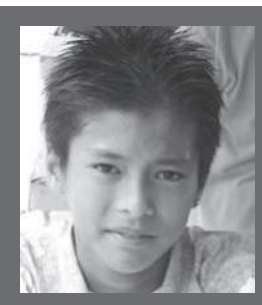
With Fi360 on board, the 11th Pacific Region Investment Conference is expected to have more active participation from institutional investors, financial regulators and public officials across the Pacific.

With hundreds of members in countries across the globe, APAFS continues to promote education among fiduciaries and supports this role to meet a more demanding obligation in fund and wealth management through its premier PRIC, now on its 11th year. ***(APAFS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday John Emmanuel "Jemo" M. Ortiguerra who is celebrating his 16th birthday today, July 4. Greetings coming from Mommy and brothers Jerome and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

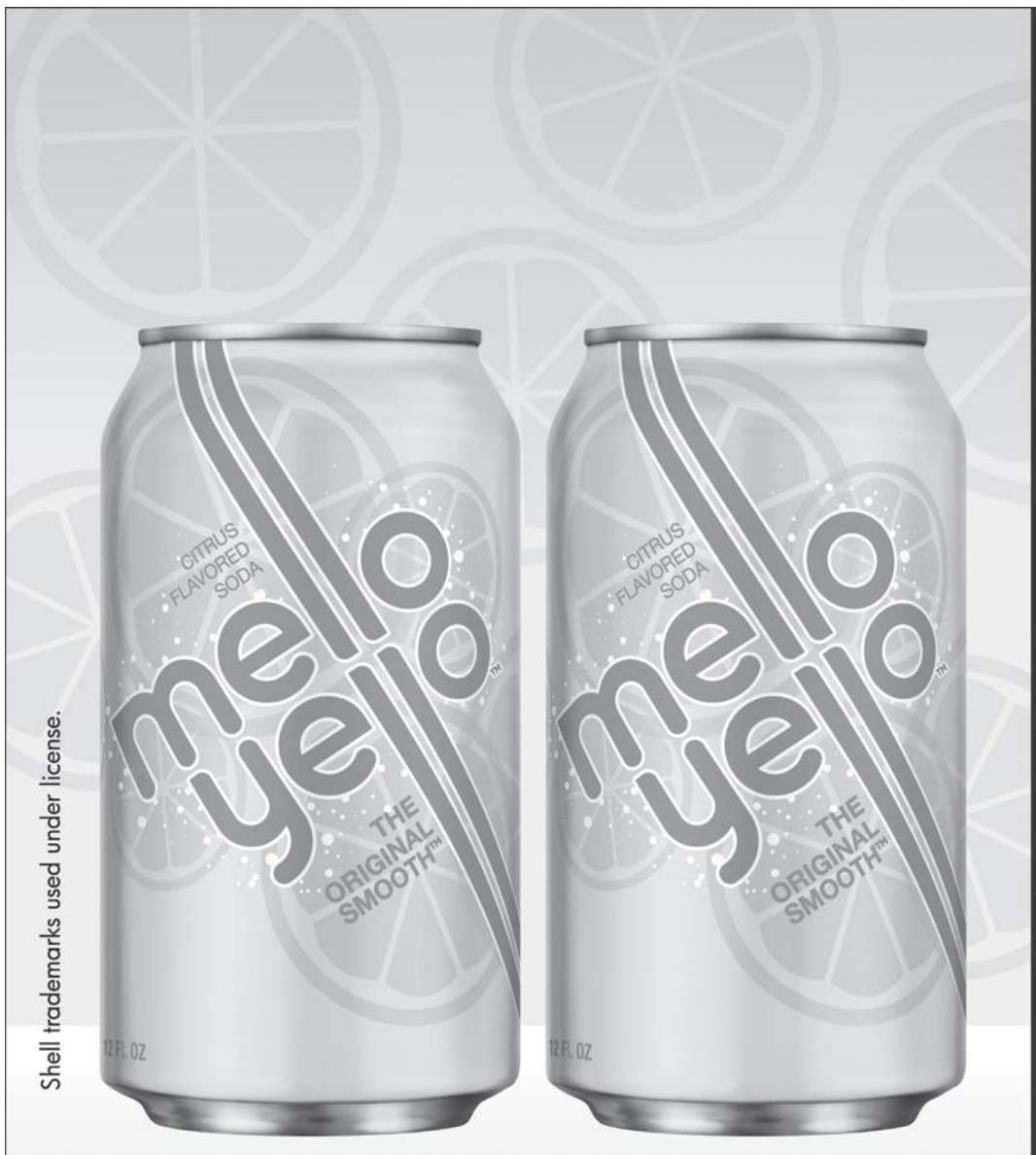


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Sue Dri. May today be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter, love, and many happy returns of the day! God bless! From your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Wilma who is celebrating her special day today, July 4. We wish you all the best and happiness in life. Greetings coming from kumareng Jane and family.



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Offer valid only on Saipan.

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Tinian Memorial Unveiling

PHOTOS AND TEXT By
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

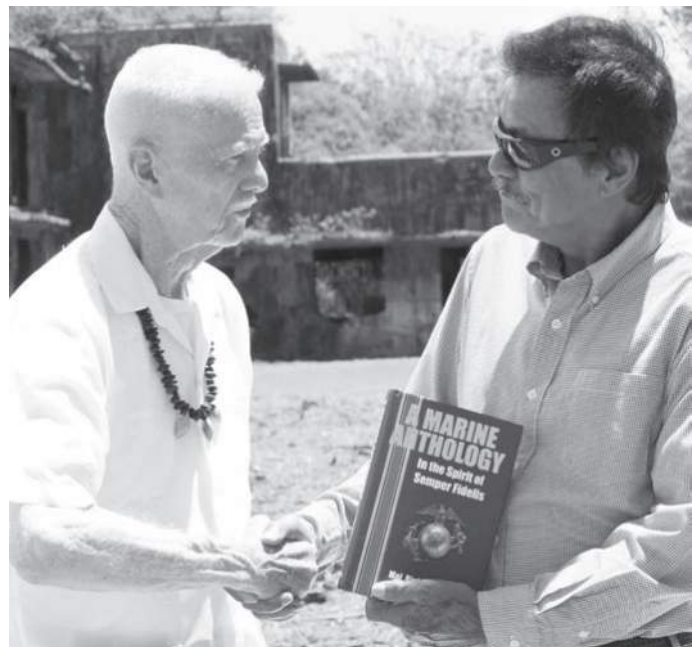
Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, left, commander of the Joint Region Marianas and Col. Robert D. Loynd, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Corps Activity in Guam and the CNMI, are joined by two Tinian cadets for a wreath-laying in front of the monument dedicated to the 2nd Marine Division.

Retired Major Rick Spooner, left, of the 2nd Marine Division, receives a U.S. Marine Corps flag from Col. Robert D. Loynd, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Corps Activity in Guam and the CNMI.

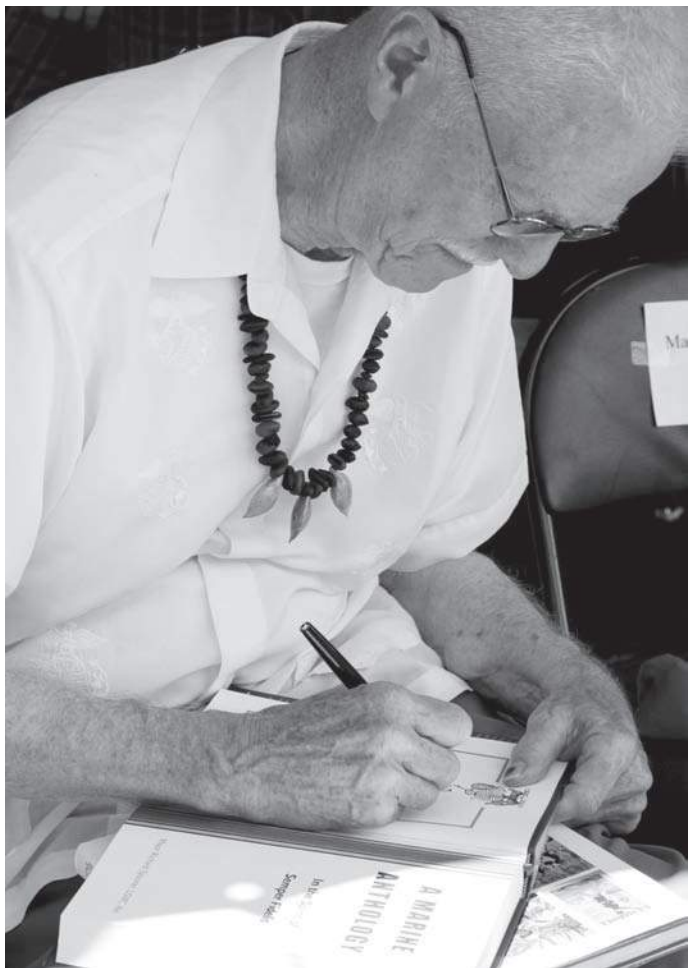
A Marine stabilizes a wreath knocked down by the wind.

From left, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Retired Major Rick Spooner of the 2nd Marine Division.

Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Activity in Guam and the CNMI Color Guard post the colors during the unveiling of a monument, right, dedicated to the 2nd Marine Division at the Tinian North Field on Friday, or 67 years after the start of the decisive Battle of Tinian on July 24, 1944.



Retired Major Rick Spooner, left, of the 2nd Marine Division hands his book to Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, right.



Retired Maj. Rick Spooner of the 2nd Marine Division signs a copy of his book, "A Marine Anthology in the Spirit of Semper Fidelis."

Retired Maj. Rick Spooner, left, of the 2nd Marine Division and retired Lt. Col. Roy Elrod, right, of the 4th Marine Division.

From left retired Marine Lt. Col. Roy Elrod, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and retired Maj. Rick Spooner prepare to unveil a monument on Tinian dedicated to the 2nd Marine Division.

Tinian JROTC cadets at attention.

Three boys look around the remains of a Japanese headquarters on Tinian during World War II, a few yards from a ceremony dedicating a monument to the U.S.' 2nd Marine Division.

Business

Strauss-Kahn leaves NYC house, returns hours later

NEW YORK (AP)—Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn spent his first day of freedom from house arrest in a sexual-assault case by ducking out of his rented townhouse with his wife on Saturday, returning a few hours later and heading quickly back inside.

Strauss-Kahn

Strauss-Kahn, whose house arrest was lifted Friday following concerns about the credibility of a hotel maid who accused him of trying to rape her, had left the house in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood with his wife, Anne Sinclair, just after 2 p.m. Saturday. They glanced at a crowd of reporters across the street, then climbed into the back seat of a black luxury sedan, which sped off down the cobblestoned street followed by a second black sedan. Their destination was unknown.

The couple returned about three hours later, stepping from a vehicle outside the home.

Strauss-Kahn has been accused by the maid of trying to rape her in May. Prosecutors told a judge on Friday they had discovered serious problems with the maid's credibility. The judge subsequently lifted his house arrest, allowing him to travel in the U.S. but not abroad.

In a dramatic turn of events, the Manhattan district attorney's office revealed that the 32-year-old hotel maid had committed a host of minor frauds to better her life in the U.S. since arriving in the country seven years ago, including lying on immigration paperwork, cheating on her taxes and misstating her income so she could live in an apartment reserved for the poor.

Carlson leads BoG Wealth Management and Trust

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has appointment Amoretta Carlson as vice president of BG Wealth and Trust Departments.

Carlson, with Bank of Guam since 1983, has managed the Business Development, Customer Service and Real Estate Departments before joining the Trust Department in 2005. A graduate of the University of Guam, she is a Certified Corporate Trust Specialist (CCTS), earned from the Institute of Certified Bankers, a nonprofit organization sponsored by the American Bankers Association.

Carlson

Established since 1985, the Bank of Guam Trust Department consists of a staff of four which manages assets of $2 billion.

Joining Carlson from BG Wealth Management/Money Concepts are Ann Roth, vice president; Mike San Nicolas, assistant vice president; and Alexandra LG Taitano, assistant vice president.

The BG Wealth Management Group, established in 1999, is made up of highly credentialed individuals with decades of experience in the local market.

"We are pleased to appoint Amoretta to head both departments which manage the assets of our key customers. With many years of experience, the common synergies between the two groups make this combination strategically important as we and our customers grow," said BoG president, chief executive officer, and board chair Lou A. Leon Guerrero.

For more information, contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

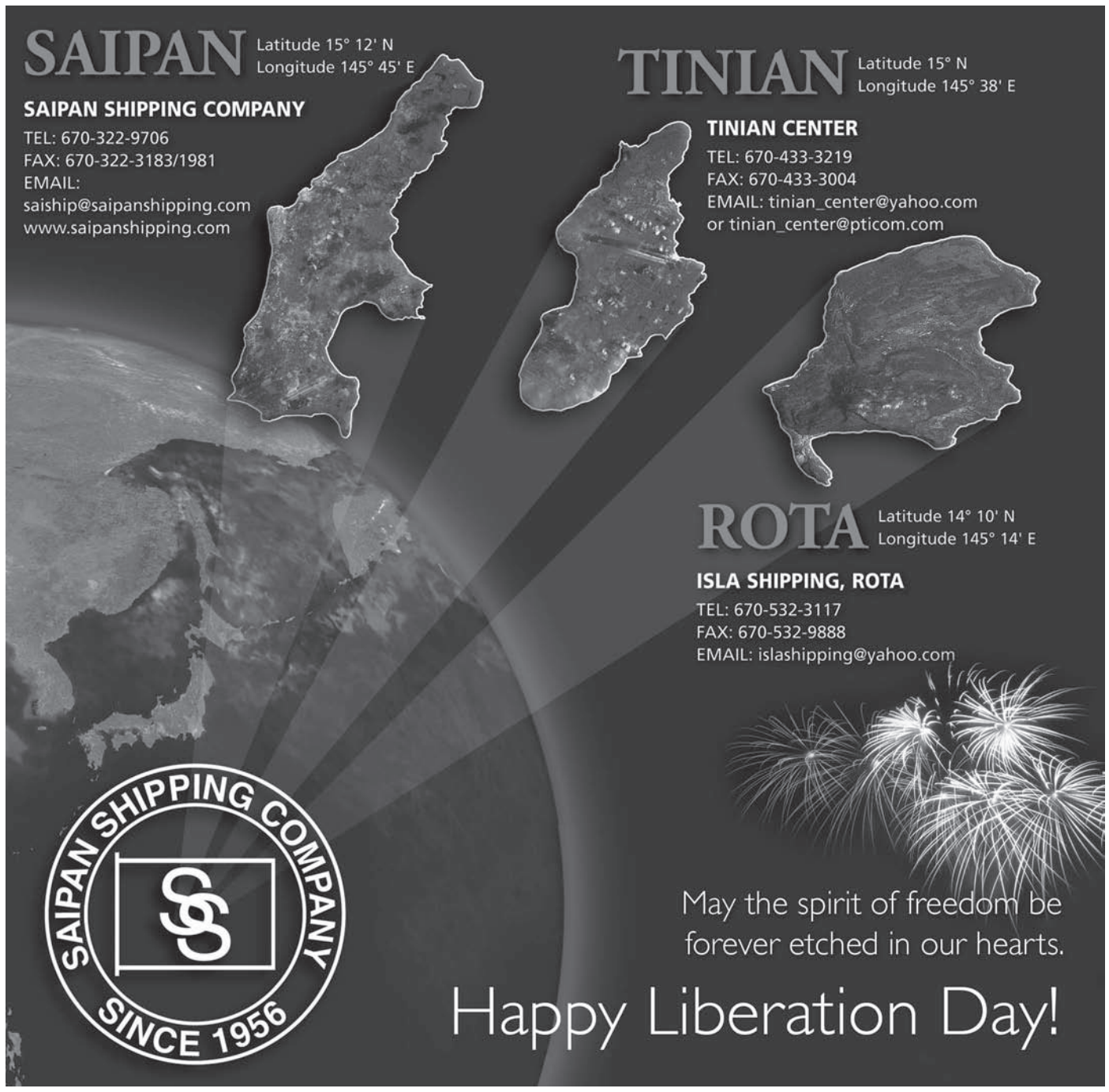
Exxon oil spill in Montreal river prompts evacuations

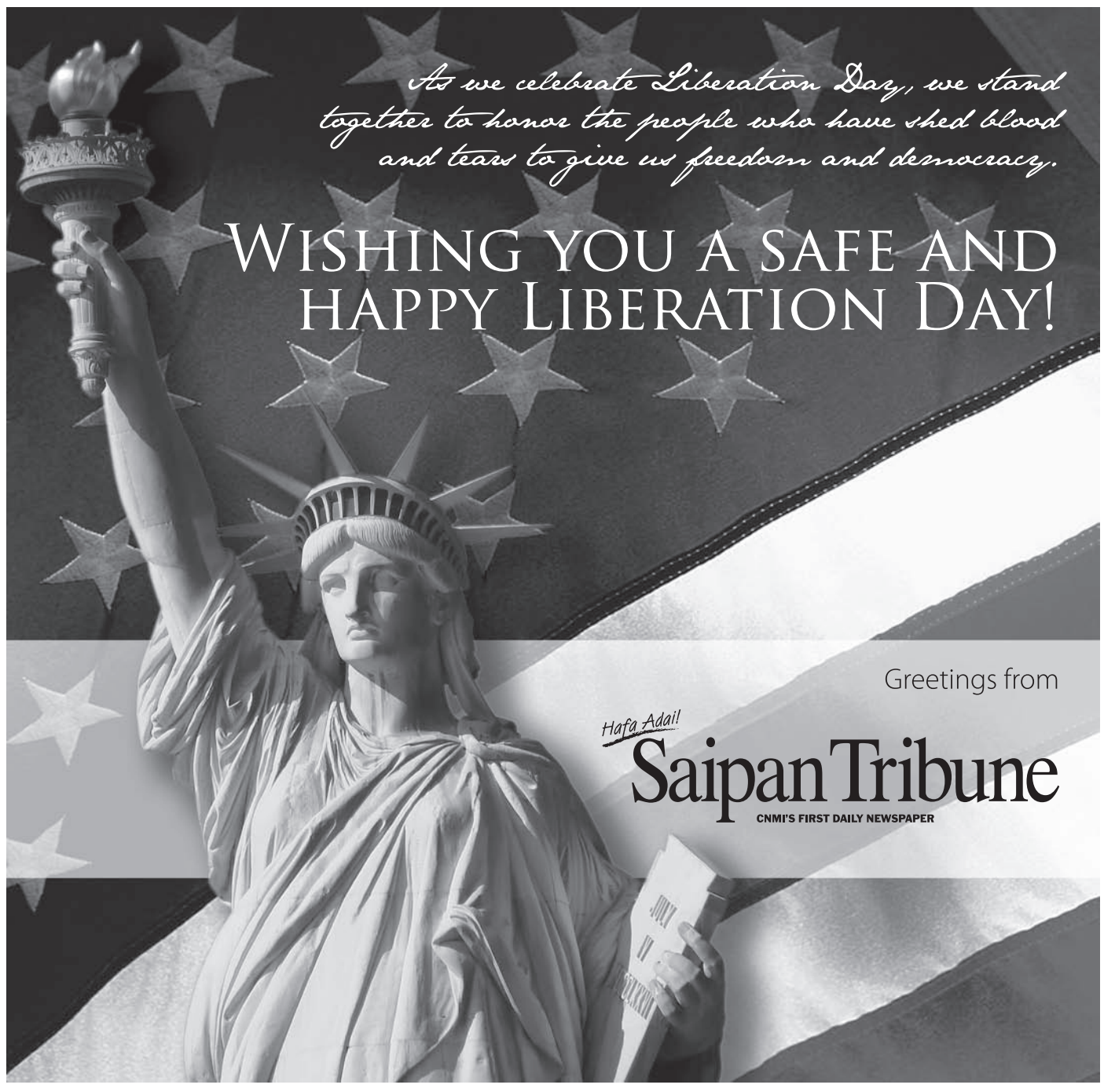
LAUREL, Mont. (AP)—An ExxonMobil pipeline that runs under the Yellowstone River in Montana ruptured Saturday and leaked hundreds of barrels of oil into the waterway, causing a 25-mile plume that fouled the riverbank and forced municipalities and irrigation districts downstream to close intakes.

The break near Billings in south-central Montana led to temporary evacuations of hundreds of residents along a 20-mile stretch. Cleanup crews deployed booms and absorbent material as the plume moved downstream at an estimated 5 to 7 mph.

The river has no dams on its way to its confluence with the Missouri River just across the Montana border in North Dakota. It was unclear how far the plume might travel.

"The parties responsible will restore the Yellowstone River," Mont. Gov. Brian Schweitzer said.




As we celebrate Liberation Day, we stand
together to honor the people who have shed blood
and tears to give us freedom and democracy.
WISHING YOU A SAFE AND
HAPPY LIBERATION DAY!
Greetings from
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

Fierce storm surprises Wis. campers, child killed

GRANTSBURG, Wis. (AP)—A fierce thunderstorm swept through a rural Wisconsin county that was packed with holiday campers, toppling trees that killed an 11-year-old girl, blowing boats ashore and injuring more than three dozen people, officials said Saturday.

The storm moved across Minnesota and Wisconsin on Friday, packing winds approaching 80 mph and hail as large as softballs.

In northwestern Wisconsin's Burnett County, at least 39 people went to hospitals after the storm toppled hundreds of trees and left several thousand utility customers without power. Authorities said most of the injured were treated and released, but three were in critical condition Saturday evening.

Heavy winds upended boats in the area and blew them ashore, while an airport hangar in neighboring Douglas County collapsed onto a single-engine plane. Searches were conducted

The storm came at one of the worst times of the year for rural Burnett County: a summer holiday weekend, when the area's lakes and rivers attract tens of thousands of visitors, said Rhonda Reynolds, a regional director for Wisconsin Emergency Management.

The county population is 17,000 she said, but the long weekend drew an estimated 80,000 visitors to the county about 90 miles northeast of Minneapolis.

"The weekend holiday traffic is complicating things just because of the number of people," she said. "Emergency crews are trying to get access to various areas but with trees blocking roads, and with all the people, movement is restricted."

A news release from Burnett County Emergency Management said the 11-year-old girl from Hinckley, Minn. was killed when lightning struck a tree and knocked it over onto her. Her name was not released.

Utilities scrambled to restore power to tens of thousands of customers. Xcel Energy said nearly 100,000 customers from eastern South Dakota to western Wisconsin lost power at some point, but crews restored power to about 85,000 customers by Saturday evening. The utility said crews would work around the clock until it was back to normal service levels.

The storm moved into southwest Minnesota on Friday afternoon and took nearly six hours to pass through before slipping into northwest Wisconsin, said Matt Friedlein, a National Weather Service meteorologist. The bad weather had moved out by Saturday morning, when skies were clear and sunny with temperatures in the 80s.

Anita Frase, the owner of Bay Park Resort & Campground in Trego, said she and the resort's 300 visitors knew a storm would be coming but they didn't expect it to hit so swiftly and with such intensity.

"About 9 o'clock the winds picked up and within five minutes it was upon us. Those were probably the darkest skies I've ever seen up here," she said, adding that the storm knocked down several trees, with some landing on vehicles. "A lot of people were very nervous. Some of the kids were crying."

Workers were also rattled at a Grantsburg store near the St. Croix River that rents canoes, kayaks and boating gear. Store clerk Aimee Van Tatenhove said the wind was so strong and loud that no one realized a medium-sized tree had fallen into the roof until employees went outside.

There were early reports of missing boaters on the St. Croix River, prompting an urgent search. Burnett County Emergency Management said all canoeists were accounted for by Saturday evening.

In Minnesota, a driver suffered minor cuts when hail the size of a baseball hit a vehicle's windshield, said Meeker County Sheriff Jeff Norlin. Roofs were torn away in several towns.

"Some communities had multiple passes at this storm—including golf ball-, baseball- and softball-sized hail," said McLeod County Emergency Management Director Kevin Mathews, who said two tractor-trailers were blown off local highways.

AP

Lory and Dan Deasey of Chippewa Falls, Wis., sit on the steps to their trailer parked at the Log Cabin Hollow campground on Yellow Lake near Webster, Wis., on Saturday, July 2, 2011.

NYers ask how gay marriage will affect benefits

NEW YORK (AP)—As same-sex marriage becomes legal in New York—a world financial capital that often sets the corporate tone for businesses everywhere, and a city with a large gay and lesbian community—companies and individuals are wrestling with the changing complexities of their financial realities.

For straight couples, the choice has generally been to marry or not to marry, period. But conflicting state and federal marriage laws and questions about corporate benefits policies make financial planning decisions much less cut-and-dried for many gay couples.

Jason Ganns, an accountant from Albany, figures getting married will save him $350 to $450 a year in state income taxes—after a devil of a time reconciling those forms with his federal return, on which he won't be considered married.

New York City resident Andrew Troup and his husband have kept their health insurance policies separate because of tax complications and are now weighing whether merging them will make sense after marriage.

And if some couples have been waffling on tying the knot, they'll have to decide whether now is the time to take the plunge if their employers restrict domestic partner benefits to the lawfully hitched.

"There's just a lot of rumors going around," said Erica Freudenstein, a 46-year-old freelance photographer from New York City who plans to wed her longtime partner, television video editor Cybele Policastro. Freudenstein has been covered under Policastro's health insurance.

"She has to pay taxes on it for my health insurance, and now for New York state I think she won't," she said. "So it's a benefit. It's all about the benefits."

New York is home to an estimated 42,600 same-sex couples, many already considered married in Canada and other places that allow gay marriage but are less business-heavy, including Iowa, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.

The range of new benefits to married gay couples will affect everything from adoption to the settling of estates. But taxes and health care benefits are the most tangible and common issues.

It is estimated that thousands of gay people in New York are covered under their partner's employer-provided health plan. Married couples are not taxed on the value of an employer's contribution to cover their spouse, but it's been different for gay couples, even New Yorkers who got legally married elsewhere.

Troup got married in Canada in 2008. New York law has recognized marriages performed elsewhere since 2009, but they're still not sure how their status will change when the state on July 24 starts recognizing same-sex marriages performed within its borders.

Tribes fear loss of sacred sites near NM fire

SANTA CLARA PUEBLO, N.M. (AP)—A wildfire that forced federal employees to flee the desert birthplace of the atomic bomb neared the sacred sites of several American Indian tribes on Saturday, raising fears that tribal lands passed down for generations would be destroyed.

More than 1,600 firefighters were working to stop the fire in northern New Mexico as it burned through a canyon on the Santa Clara Pueblo reservation and threatened other pueblos on the Pajarito Plateau.

The area, a stretch of mesas that run more than 15 miles west of Santa Fe, N.M., includes the town of Los Alamos and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the nation's premier nuclear weapons laboratory.

The blaze reached the Santa Clara Pueblo's watershed in the canyon this week, damaging the area that the tribe considers its birthplace and scorching 20 square miles of tribal forest. Fire operations chief Jerome MacDonald said it was within miles of the centuries-old Puye Cliff Dwellings, a national historic landmark.

Tribes were worried that cabins, pueblos and watersheds could be destroyed by the 177-square-mile blaze, the largest wildfire in state history.

"We were also praying on our knees, we were asking the Creator in our cultural way to please forgive us, `What have we done?'" Santa Clara Pueblo Gov. Walter Dasheno said. "Bring moisture so that the Mother Fire can be stopped. But that was not meant to be."

About 2,800 tribe members live in a dusty village nestled in New Mexico's high desert, near the mouth of Santa Clara Canyon where aspen and blue spruce forests provide relief from the dry desert and ponds provide water for irrigation. The canyon is north of the town of Los Alamos.

Pueblo Fire Chief Mel Tafoya said it was unclear whether cabins in the canyon or the ponds survived the blaze. Members of the state's congressional delegation have promised federal help for the tribe pending a damage assessment. Dasheno said that despite the pain of losing an estimated 75 percent of the tribe's forest to three recent fires, "we are going to come back."

"We're going to tell the story of what occurred to our children and grandchildren. And yes, we're going to cry," he said.

The tribe also worried that 1.5 million trees planted after the 2000 fire have been destroyed, as well as work to restore the Rio Grande cuthroat trout to the upper headwaters of the Santa Clara Creek. The tribe called for emergency federal relief.

To Santa Clara's south, Cochiti Pueblo was also worried about damage to ground cover affecting its watershed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Marines accused of sham marriages for fiscal gain

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—Three Southern California Marine corporals are facing charges of defrauding the government for entering into sham marriages for financial gain, the military said Saturday. The scam was hatched when a lesbian couple, one a Marine and the other a civilian, decided to live together off base, according to 1st Lt. Maureen Dooley, a spokeswoman at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. The female Marine found a male Marine willing to get married, allowing them to collect a $1,200 housing benefit, Dooley said. The civilian woman also eventually married a male Marine and collected government funds, according to officials.

Police: Train ticket helps crack 1957 Ill. killing

SYCAMORE, Ill. (AP)—Charles "Chuck" Ridulph always assumed the person who stole his little sister from the neighborhood corner where she played and dumped her body in a wooded stretch some 100 miles away was a trucker or passing stranger—surely not anyone from the hometown he remembers as one big, friendly playground. And, after more than a half century passed since her death, he assumed the culprit also had died or was in prison for some other crime. On Saturday, he said he was stunned by the news that a one-time neighbor had been charged in the kidnapping and killing that captured national attention, including that of the president and FBI chief. Prosecutors in bucolic Sycamore, a city of 15,000 that's home to a yearly pumpkin festival, charged a former police officer Friday in the 1957 abduction of 7-year-old Maria Ridulph after an ex-girlfriend's discovery of an unused train ticket blew a hole in his alibi.

Phoenix sets record heat for day at 118 degrees

PHOENIX (AP)—About 4,000 homes in the metropolitan Phoenix area are without power—and air-conditioning—on a record-shattering day of heat in one of the nation's hottest cities. Phoenix hit a high temperature of 118 degrees on Saturday, topping a 10-year-old record of 116 degrees for the date. The National Weather Service say clouds from monsoon activity likely kept the area from reaching 120 degrees, but they say it's still the city's hottest day so far this year.

Asia

Polls open in Thailand; big parties deeply divided

BANGKOK (AP)—Five tumultuous years after a military coup divided this Southeast Asian kingdom, Thailand held pivotal elections Sunday that will determine whether it can end the long-running political crisis that has shattered its reputation for stability.

Many people fear the ballot, the first since last year's anti-government demonstrations brought Bangkok to its knees, could trigger a new era of upheaval if the results are not accepted by rival protesters or the coup-prone army.

Television stations reported long lines at polling stations nationwide as registered voters chose a new 500-member parliament. Security was tight, with around 170,000 police deployed nationwide to protect booths, but no incidents of violence were immediately reported.

Opposition leader Yingluck Shinawatra, whose Pheu Thai party is considered a strong front-runner, was among the first to vote, dropping her ballot into a sealed green metal container in the capital, Bangkok. She thanked her supporters and called on voters to come out in high numbers.

Campaigning ended Saturday night, and a ban on soliciting votes extends to the use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

The Election Commission is expected to announce preliminary results Sunday night.

While the poll itself is a race between Yingluck and ruling Democrats led by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, it has come to be viewed as a referendum on the divisive legacy of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck's exiled elder brother. Thaksin's overthrow in 2006 set the nation on a downward spiral from which it is still struggling to recover.

Now living in Dubai to escape a two-year prison sentence on graft charges, Thaksin's ascent to power in 2001 touched off a societal schism between this Southeast Asian nation's haves and have-nots—between the marginalized rural poor who hailed his populism and an elite establishment that sees him as a corrupt, autocratic threat to the monarchy and the status quo.

AP

Opposition Pheu Thai party leader Yingluck Shinawatra greets upon her arrival at a polling station to cast her ballot in a general election in Bangkok, Thailand Sunday, July 3, 2011.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb blast kills man in restive south Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military says a bomb explosion near a mosque in a restive southern province has killed one man. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Prudencio Asto says the roadside bomb went off late Friday in Maguindanao province. Police have blamed Muslim rebels for a similar bombing outside a government office in nearby North Cotabato province earlier this week. Soldiers found two other mortar rounds attached to cellphones in neighboring Sultan Kudarat province the same day. Asto said Saturday that the 27-year-old victim was hit by shrapnel in the head. Fragments of an 81 mm mortar shell and electronic circuits have been recovered at the scene. The main Muslim rebel group and the government have been engaged in peace talks.

Philippine mayor punches sheriff over demolition

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine mayor has repeatedly punched a court officer for refusing her request to delay the demolition of squatters' houses until she arrived to prevent violence. Davao city Mayor Sara Duterte was shown on television Friday punching court sheriff Abe Andres in the face. She said delaying the demolition for two hours while she assisted victims of a flash flood would have prevented a clash between squatters and the police and demolition crews. One officer was injured in the clash. Andres was treated for bruises. He said he hasn't decided what action to take against the mayor. Last month, the governor of a northern province allegedly hit a radio announcer with a microphone, apparently over the station's coverage of illegal gambling and logging.

Indonesian president names relative to lead army

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president has appointed his brother-in-law as army chief, raising speculation about political succession. President Susilo Bambang. Yudhoyono is married to the older sister of Lt. Gen. Pramono Edhie Wibowo, who was sworn in Thursday and replaces a general who will retire soon. Wibowo's previous position was chief of the army's strategic command. He also led a team of the army's notoriously violent commando unit, Kopassus, that was deployed in the then-province of East Timor before its 1999 referendum on independence. In 2008, Wibowo was assigned to lead Kopassus, the same post held by his late father, Sarwo Edhie, who was pivotal in crushing the communist party in 1966.

Boeing 787 Dreamliner makes first landing in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Boeing Co.'s long-delayed 787 has completed its maiden trans-Pacific journey and landed in Japan, where it will undergo testing this week with All Nippon Airways in preparation for its first commercial launch. The Dreamliner arrived at Tokyo's Haneda Airport early Sunday to applause. Two fire trucks shot out celebratory arches of water as it approached the hangar. The twin-engine jet is made mostly of carbon fiber and other composite materials, which make it lighter and more fuel-efficient than other mid-sized airliners.

World

50 Yemeni troops missing in lawless south

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Dozens of Yemeni troops went missing after a battle with al-Qaida-linked militants at a sports stadium in the country's increasingly lawless south, a military official said Saturday, describing a new setback for a weakened regime already facing an array of opponents.

Meanwhile, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has been treated in a Saudi hospital since an attack on his palace a month ago, remains bedridden and has difficulty breathing and talking, Yemeni officials said, revealing new details about the extent of his injuries. His condition cast doubt on repeated claims by his aides that his return to Yemen is imminent.

Saudi Arabia has been pressing Saleh to step down within 30 days and hand power to his vice president, in exchange for immunity from prosecution. However, despite his ill health, Saleh has refused to sign the deal.

A popular uprising against Saleh erupted in February, and the revolt gained momentum after some of the president's close aides, military commanders and Cabinet ministers joined the protesters.

Islamic militants in the south have made advances, carrying out daring attacks in an apparent attempt to exploit the power vacuum and turmoil. Saleh's troops seem largely focused on securing his hold on power in Sanaa, the capital.

However, some have accused Saleh and his allies of encouraging attacks by the militants in order to create chaos and make Yemenis long for the relative stability of his regime.

In a statement Saturday, former military commanders who now side with the anti-government groups said Saleh's regime is responsible for the rising power of the militants. "After seeing that all their careless tactics have failed to squash the peaceful revolt, they are now resorting to the terrorism card which they only used internationally before," said the group, which includes a close former Saleh aide, Gen. Ali Mohsen.

Criticism also came from regime loyalists, indicating widening cracks.

Col. Mohammed al-Sawmali, whose forces are battling militants in the southern city of Zinjibar, blasted the defense ministry for not providing enough support for his unit.

NATO: More airstrikes in western Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—NATO said Saturday it has begun ramping up its airstrikes on military targets in the western part of Libya, where rebel forces claim a string of advances through territory still largely under Moammar Gadhafi's control.

In a boost for Gadhafi, meanwhile, the African Union called on member states to disregard an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against the Libyan leader. That could enable Gadhafi to travel freely on the continent. The warrant was issued for his alleged role in a brutal crackdown on anti-government protesters earlier this year.

Libyan government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim praised the AU's decision, saying "we salute their courage." He said Gadhafi had no immediate plans to leave the country, however.

"We are at war with the mightiest armies in the world, and the safety of the leader is a must for us. So we need to keep him safe to lead us through this difficult time," he said.

Libya welcomed a road map for dialogue drafted by the AU that outlines plans for negotiations between the government and rebels, Ibrahim said.

He confirmed that Gadhafi would not be involved in the proposed talks, and expressed hope that a cease-fire could be reached "in the next few days, or weeks at most."

While he gave no indication that Gadhafi was prepared to step down, Ibrahim said the government might agree to a deal that would constitutionally prevent the leader from having any direct political powers.

Gadhafi's regime is determined to stand firm against opposition fighters moving from southern and eastern fronts toward the capital, Tripoli. The rebels have largely solidified control over the eastern third of Libya but have struggled to push out of pockets they hold in the west.

NATO's comments about its latest airstrikes suggest the alliance is hoping to tip the balance further in the rebels' favor despite threats by Gadhafi to carry out attacks in Europe unless the airstrikes stop.

The coalition said it has destroyed more than 50 military targets in the west this week. It says it is targeting government forces in cities and along "major lines of communication."

"We are engaging all military assets that are being used to indiscriminately target the civilian population throughout Libya," Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, commander of NATO's Libya mission, said in the statement sent Saturday but dated the previous day.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez's illness poses potential pitfalls for foes

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Opponents of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez face a new political playing field filled with potential pitfalls now that their nemesis has announced he is being treated for cancer. Venezuela's loosely knit coalition of opposition factions insists it is sticking with plans to stand behind a single candidate in next year's presidential election, yet the only glue that has held them together for years has been animosity toward Chavez. If cancer were to force Chavez from the race, long-standing divisions could widen, hurting the opposition's chances for victory.

Greece arrests Gaza-bound boat captain

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek authorities have arrested the captain of a boat that is part of a Gaza-bound flotilla trying to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory, officials said Saturday. The 60-year-old captain, John Klusmire, was being held at Piraeus police headquarters and will remain there until a court hearing Tuesday. "The conditions of his detention are terrible," vessel spokeswoman Jane Hirschmann told The Associated Press. "There is no bed. He is sitting on a bench." Police weren't immediately available for comment.

3 gunmen killed in Mexico after attacking police

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Three gunmen were killed in a shootout with police after more than 40 armed assailants lobbed grenades at a federal police station, authorities in western Mexico said Saturday. The Michoacan state prosecutor's office said three police officers were seriously injured and two gunmen detained in the attack, which left gaping holes in the building from three grenade explosions and thousands of gunshots. The assailants pulled up in more than 10 vehicles early Saturday in the city of La Piedad, prosecutors said in a statement.

Health & Fitness

Potato chips are piling on the pounds, study finds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blame the potato chip. It's the biggest demon behind that pound-a-year weight creep that plagues many of us, a major diet study found. Bigger than soda, candy and ice cream.

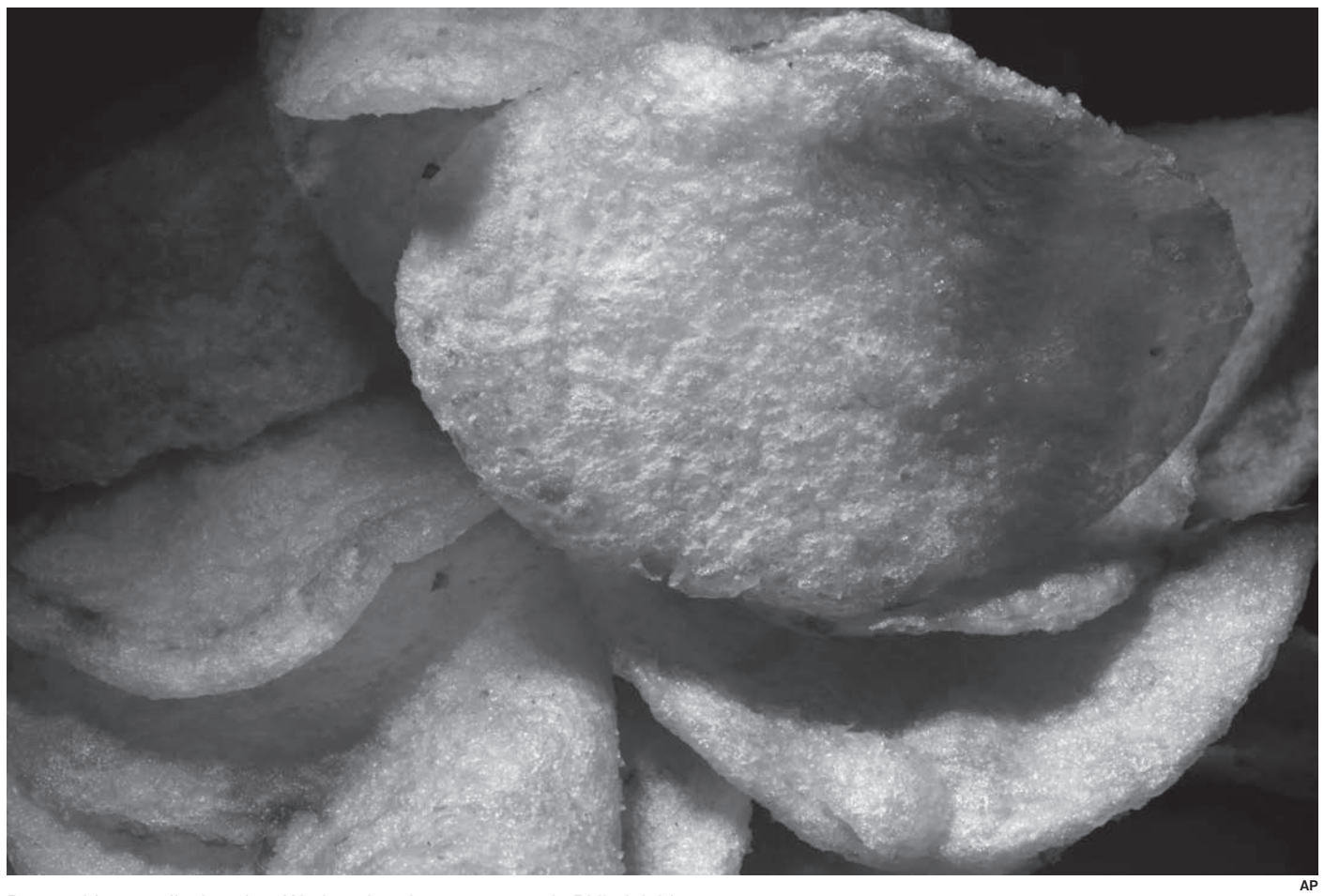
And the reason is partly that old advertising cliche: You can't eat just one.

"They're very tasty and they have a very good texture. People generally don't take one or two chips. They have a whole bag," said obesity expert Dr. F. Xavier Pi-Sunyer of the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York.

What we eat and how much of it we consume has far more impact than exercise and most other habits do on long-term weight gain, according to the study by Harvard University scientists. It's the most comprehensive look yet at the effect of individual foods and lifestyle choices like sleep time and quitting smoking.

The results are in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Weight problems are epidemic. Two-thirds of American adults are overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has tripled in the past three decades. Pounds often are packed on gradually over decades, and many people struggle to limit weight gain without realizing what's causing it.



AP

Potato chips are displayed on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, in Philadelphia.

The new study finds food choices are key. The message: Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and nuts. Cut back on potatoes, red meat, sweets and soda.

"There is no magic bullet for weight control," said one study leader, Dr. Frank Hu. "Diet and exercise are important for preventing weight gain, but diet clearly plays a bigger role."

Doctors analyzed changes in diet and lifestyle habits of 120,877 people from three long-running medical studies. All were health professionals and not obese at the start. Their weight was measured every four years for up to two decades, and they detailed their diet on questionnaires.

On average, participants gained nearly 17 pounds over the 20-year period.

For each four-year period, food choices contributed nearly 4 pounds. Exercise, for those who did it, cut less than 2 pounds.

Potato chips were the biggest dietary offender. Each daily serving containing 1 ounce (about 15 chips and 160 calories) led to a 1.69-pound uptick over four years. That's compared to sweets and desserts, which added 0.41 pound.

For starchy potatoes other than chips, the gain was 1.28 pounds. Within the spud group, french fries were worse for the waist than boiled, baked or mashed potatoes. That's because a serving of large fries contains between 500 to 600 calories compared with a serving of a large baked potato at 280 calories.

Soda added a pound over four years. Eating more fruits and vegetables and other unprocessed foods led to less weight gain, probably because they are fiber-rich and make people feel fuller.

For each four-year period, these factors had these effects on weight:

■ An alcoholic drink a day, 0.41-pound increase.

■ Watching an hour of TV a day, 0.31-pound increase.

■ Recently quitting smoking, 5-pound increase.

People who slept more or less than six to eight hours a night gained more weight.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and a foundation. Several researchers reported receiving fees from drug and nutrition companies.

"Humans naturally like fat and sweet," said Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, who had no role in the study. "That's why we always tell people to eat their fruits and vegetables."

Pi-Sunyer, who also wasn't involved in the research, said the study gives useful advice.

"It's hard to lose weight once you gain it," he said. "Anything that will give people a clue about what might prevent weight gain if they follow through with it is helpful."

The federal government earlier this year issued new dietary guidelines advising people to eat smarter. This month, it ditched the food pyramid—the longtime symbol of healthy eating—in favor of a dinner plate divided into four sections containing fruits, vegetables, protein and grains.

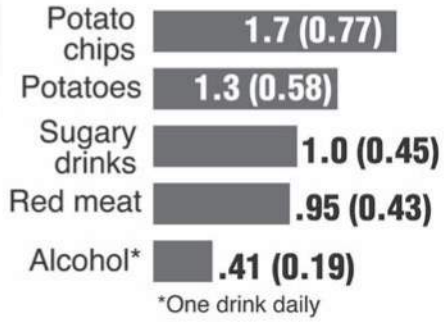
Healthy Living

What not to eat

A study shows that eating certain foods contributes to a larger amount of weight gain over time.

Hold the chips

Average amount of weight gained by study participants every four years over a 20-year period that was associated with these foods, in pounds (kilograms):



Source: Harvard School of Public Health, ABC News
Graphic: Pat Carr

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Study affirms concussion dangers to young athletes

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
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Pediatrics: http://pediatrics.aappublications.org

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A new study highlights the heightened danger to young athletes who suffer concussions and sustain new head blows before they've fully recovered.

The study, published Monday in Pediatrics, dug into the National Registry of Sudden Death in Young Athletes, a database maintained by the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, to focus on deaths from blunt trauma among players 21 and younger. Previous studies from the data focused on deaths from cardiovascular problems.

A key finding, author Dr. Barry Maron said in an interview, was a worrisome number of prep football players who died of head and neck blows after they had already sustained concussions a few days to four weeks beforehand. Maron said it comes at a time of growing awareness about concussions, including the dangers of "second-impact syndrome."

The registry listed 1,827 sudden deaths among young athletes from 1980-2009. Fourteen percent of them, or 261, were caused by trauma-related injuries. Trauma fatalities were most frequent in football at 148, including 17 high school players who died of head or neck injuries after they had already sustained concussions a few days to four weeks beforehand.

In general, the authors wrote, trauma deaths among young athletes are relatively uncommon, and they're four times less common than cardiovascular deaths. The average has remained relatively constant around nine per year. "Nevertheless, these catastrophic events remain an important public health issue with a devastating effect on families, communities, and physicians," the study said.

The study said most of the deaths were preventable and showed the importance of better equipment, better protocols for when injured athletes should return to action, and possible changes in blocking and tackling rules.

Dr. Joel Brenner, incoming chairman of the Council on Sports, Medicine and Fitness of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said the study contains important new information.

"It gives credence to everything we've been trying to do to make it safer for young athletes out there with proper treatment of concussions," said Brenner, medical director of the sports medicine program at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va.

Given recent moves across the country to bar athletes with concussions from playing until they've fully recovered, the study also hit home for Jon Almquist, head of the athletic training program for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. He said the 17 deaths were probably preventable.

"Maybe that catastrophic number can take a dip because of the changing awareness and changing concussion protocols," said Almquist, who chairs the secondary school athletic trainers committee of the National Athletic Trainers Association.

Life & Style

Monaco's prince weds bride in lavish ceremony

MONACO (AP)—Monaco's Prince Albert II and Princess Charlene promised each other love and fidelity in an extravagant religious wedding Saturday attended by international celebrities and royalty, bringing new allure to the tiny principality known for its luxurious casinos and as stomping ground for the rich and famous.

The Catholic service followed an intimate civil ceremony Friday, which saw Charlene officially transformed from commoner into royalty. The marriage of the 53-year-old prince and the 33-year-old Charlene Wittstock, a one-time Olympic swimmer from South Africa who is now known as Princess Charlene, ended a three-decade wait for a new princess.

The last wedding of a ruling prince in Monaco was in 1956, when Hollywood star Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III.

Saturday's ceremony was attended by guests including former James Bond actor Sir Roger Moore, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and bohemian designer Roberto Cavalli, of Italy. Thousands of Monegasque citizens cheered the proceedings while watching on large screens set up outside the palace, where both ceremonies were held.

Charlene swept along the red carpet leading into the palace on her father's arm. In her sumptuous boat neck gown by Giorgio Armani Prive, her hair pulled back in a swirling French twist and with only the lightest touch of makeup, she seemed to channel some of Grace's effortless elegance.

Throughout the ceremony, which lasted an hour and a half, both bride and groom wore demure expressions, their eyes mostly downcast. Only as they took their vows and exchanged rings did the solemn facade crack: As they slipped on the 18 carat white gold Cartier rings onto each other's fingers, Albert—in a white military uniform—shot her a wink, and Charlene cracked a broad, sincere smile.

AP

Prince Albert II of Monaco and Princess Charlene of Monaco depart from the Monaco palace after their religious wedding ceremony, Saturday, July 2, 2011.

The tears flowed freely down the new princess' face after the ceremony, as she left her bouquet of lilies of the valley and other white blossoms at the Sainte Devote church—a tradition in Monaco.

With photographers shouting for the attention of the A-list guests as they streamed into the palace, the wedding had something of the flavor of a star-studded red carpet at the film festival in neighboring Cannes.

5th Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Daniel Tudela Muña

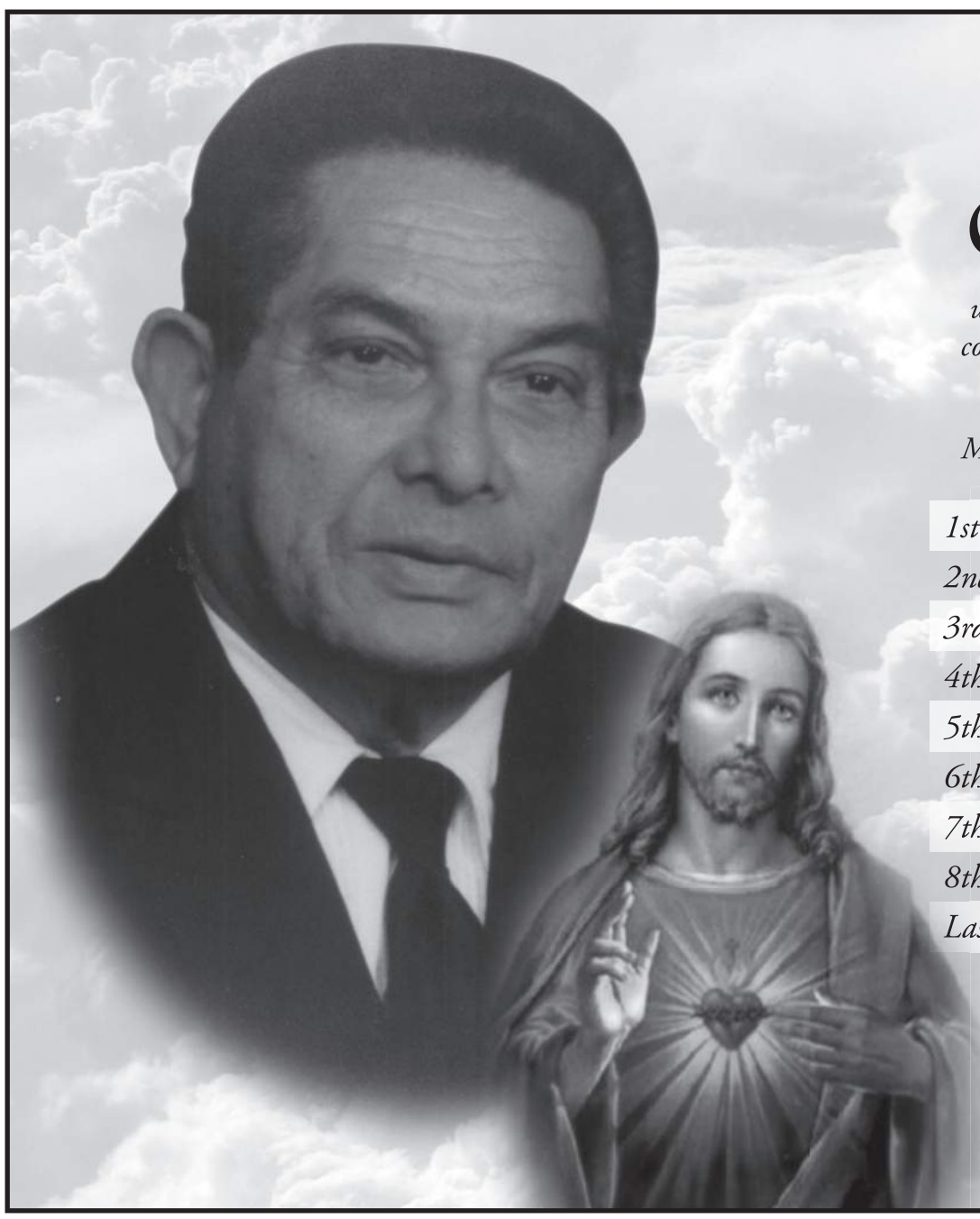
Cordially invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in the celebration of the Eucharist as we commemorate the 5th death anniversary of our dearly beloved "Daniel".

Daily rosary & mass is being offered beginning Monday, July 04, 2011 through Monday, July 11, 2011. Holy rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. and mass will follow at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church.

On Tuesday, July 12, 2011, final mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by dinner at the family residence in San Vicente.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Juana S. Muna, Children and Family.



Fifth Year Death Anniversary

"We the Children and families of the late

George Flores Fleming

would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the fifth year anniversary of our beloved Father's passing unto eternal life with our Creator

Mass of Intention will be celebrated daily. The mass schedules are as follows:

1st Day	Thurs., June 30, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
2nd Day	Fri., July 1, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
3rd Day	Sat., July 2, 2011	6:00 pm at San Jose Parish
4th Day	Sun., July 3, 2011	10:00 am at St. Jude Parish
5th Day	Mon., July 4, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
6th Day	Tues., July 5, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
7th Day	Wed., July 6, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
8th Day	Thurs., July 7, 2011	6:00 pm at St. Jude Parish
Last Day	Fri., July 8, 2011	6:00 am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Please join us in prayer. Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You
THE FAMILY

Maria Shriver files to divorce Schwarzenegger

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maria Shriver stood by Arnold Schwarzenegger when he ran for California's governorship in 2003, even after several women accused him of lecherous behavior.

On Friday, 25 years after their fairytale wedding on Cape Cod, she filed for divorce.

The former television journalist and Kennedy family heiress cited irreconcilable differences but offered no additional details about the breakup.

Shriver did not list a date when the couple separated, although they announced they had done so on May 9.

A week later, the former California governor admitted he fathered a child with a member of his household staff years ago.

The filing, which Shriver signed nearly two weeks ago, signals an end to a union that brought together a rising film action star and a princess of the Kennedy clan, herself an up-and-coming network newscaster.

Shriver's filing does not indicate the couple had a premarital agreement.

That means Schwarzenegger's earnings from a career as a Hollywood megastar, which allowed him to forgo a salary as governor and commute by private jet to Sacramento, likely will be evenly divided with his estranged wife.

AP

In this Nov. 6, 2006 file photo, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger celebrates with his wife Maria Shriver after giving his acceptance speech, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Shriver is seeking spousal support but the amount will be determined later, either through a settlement or by a judge. The divorce is expected to be handled mostly behind closed doors.

Economic disclosure forms filed when Schwarzenegger left as California governor in January show he has interests in at least eight entities each worth $1 million or more. An exact tally of his wealth is impossible to calculate.

The forms also show he still retains rights to intellectual property from his days as a fitness guru and movie star.

Several of Schwarzenegger's biggest hits, including "Predator," "True Lies" and the blockbuster sequel "Terminator 2" were made during his marriage to Shriver.

Shriver was an award-winning television journalist but put her career on hold when Schwarzenegger ran for governor.

Her holdings are more modest but are listed in the disclosure as being worth more than $1 million. She is a member of the Kennedy family and a beneficiary of some of its assets in addition to owning rights and royalties from her work as an author, the filings show.

In recent months, she has appeared in videos posted on YouTube in which she talks about stress in her life, the weight of expectations and the search for faith in a troubled world.

Shriver and Schwarzenegger have four children together, including two sons who are still minors. Shriver's petition seeks joint custody of the teens, who are 17 and 13.

Schwarzenegger's spokesman Adam Mendelsohn declined comment in an email. Shriver's attorney Laura Wasser did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment. Her spokesman Matthew DiGirolamo declined comment.

Shriver publicly supported her husband when he ran for elected office, even after the Los Angeles Times reported accusations by several women that they had been groped by the movie star.

Schwarzenegger said he "behaved badly sometimes" and was twice elected to the governorship.

He failed to fix the state's chronic budget problems and left office in January with an eye toward environmental projects and a return to the big screen.

One of his projects was an animated collaboration with comic book legend Stan Lee titled "The Governator," but the project was shelved after Schwarzenegger admitted fathering the child out of wedlock. He has disappeared from the public eye in recent weeks and has not announced any plans to resume acting.

Prince William, Kate greeted by protesters

MONTREAL (AP)—Prince William's new bride Kate countered protesters with smiles Saturday, as the royal couple came face to face with loud opposition in the French-speaking province of Quebec in a brief reversal of what has otherwise been a hugely successful trip.

About 35 protesters, including members of the separatist group Reseau de Resistance du Quebecois, or Quebecker Resistance Network, stood outside Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre in Montreal chanting "A united people will never be vanquished."

The newlyweds were there to visit with cancer patients and the hospital's neonatal care facility. The Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre is the largest mother-child center in Canada.

Protesters carried signs that read "Parasites go home," ``War Criminals," and "Your fortune came from the blood of our ancestors."

"It's a symbol of English dominance over Quebec," said 30-year-old lawyer Antoine Pich of the couple's visit.

Dressed in black capes, the protesters were drumming and booing as the royal couple's motorcade pulled up to the hospital. William was whisked into the hospital as Kate stepped out of the car and smiled at the crowd before going in.

The demonstrations were a rare moment of criticism aimed at the young royals, who have for the most part been welcomed with open arms by Canadians eager to see the glamorous newlyweds.

The protesters were outnumbered about 10 to one by William and Kate supporters gathered outside the hospital. "Give me one good reason why you should hate someone. They're good people," said Elyane Lafontaine, 51.

Saturday was the couple's quietest and least frenetic day since beginning their tour on Thursday. The trip unfolded with two days of rousing crowds and seas of well-wishers clamoring to catch a glimpse of royalty during the couple's stay in Ottawa, the country's English-speaking capital city.

Protesters were angry that Canada still has ties to the monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II is still the country's figurative head of state and new Canadian citizens still pledge allegiance to the Queen during their swearing-in ceremony. Others said they were angry that taxpayer money is being used to pay for the royal tour.

Michael Behiels, an Ottawa University professor, said there was much hostility between the French and the English in the years following Great Britain's 1759 Conquest of New France—which is present day Quebec.

Maxime Laporte, head of the Reseau de Resistance du Quebecois, said the monarchy doesn't represent Quebec and is illegitimate here because the province has never accepted Canada's constitution. He called the royal tour a "nation-building exercise" funded by taxpayers.

The royal couple left the hospital and headed to the de Tourisme et D'Hotellerie du Quebec, where they were met again by a handful of protesters dominated by about 150 supporters. Many of the detractors loudly protested with megaphones and booing as the motorcade arrived.

AP

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge tour the War Museum in Ottawa, Canada on Saturday July 2, 2011.

One man perched above on a balcony earned cheers from the crowd as he chanted, before the couple arrived, "Vive le Quebec libre!"

The royal couple left the hospital and headed to the Institut de Tourisme et D'Hotellerie du Quebec, where they were met again by a handful of protesters dominated by about 150 supporters. Some spectators held signs that said, "Bienvenue Will et Kate sur Le Plateau," which welcomes them to the trendy Montreal neighborhood where the institute is located.

Once inside, Kate and William donned aprons and took part in a cooking workshop at the facility, which is a government agency that conducts training and research in the hotel, tourism and food service industries.

Wearing white cooking jackets, the pair got into the pots and pans to whip up some authentic Quebec fare. They helped make foie gras with toasted brioche, Charlevoix lamb, lobster souffle and a cheesecake-type dish with caramel and meringue. The couple are slated to dine with Quebec Premier Jean Charest and his wife Michele.

Before heading to the French-speaking city, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge started the third day of their tour in Ottawa, Ontario, with a tree-planting ceremony at Government House that has become a royal family tradition and a visit to the Canadian War Museum.

Prince William, wearing a dark blue suit, and Kate, dressed in a grey, fitted knee-length Kensington dress by British designer Catherine Walker, each wielded a shovel as they helped plant a Canadian hemlock—a tree known for its longevity meant to symbolize their marriage. Their tree was the 17th planted by a member of the British royal family in a tradition dating back to 1939. Prince William's parents, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, and his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, planted trees on previous visits at Rideau Hall, the official residence of both the Canadian monarch and Governor General, the queen's representative in Canada.

The couple then attended a reception at the Canadian War Museum with veterans of conflicts from World War II to Afghanistan. The couple met with the veterans and with war brides—about 45,000 women came from Europe to Canada as war brides after World War II, most of them from the United Kingdom.

Moments after entering the museum, the couple walked over to a group of seated women who served as nurses in the Canadian military during World War II and the Korean War. The royal pair spent several minutes with them.

The royal couple are in Quebec for a two-day stay.

A 2009 visit by Prince William's father, Prince Charles, to Montreal was disrupted by more than 200 separatist protesters. The protesters sat in the street, blocking the prince's way into a ceremony planned at an armory, and threw eggs at the soldiers who were accompanying him and his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall. The couple were forced to enter the building through a back door and missed an elaborate welcoming ceremony that had been planned.

In 1990, Canada Day celebrations were disrupted briefly by protesters from Quebec who booed and turned their back on the queen.

However, support for the separatists among Quebeckers has been on the decline in recent years as the 80-percent French-speaking province has enjoyed plenty of autonomy even without quitting Canada.

The royal couple leave Canada for a three-day trip to California on July 8.

'Transformers' climbs to $97.5M, aims for records

AP

In this publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Bumblebee is shown in a scene from "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The latest "Transformers" sequel might set some revenue records over Fourth of July weekend.

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" has $97.5 million in the bank at the domestic box office since opening Tuesday night. Distributor Paramount estimated Saturday that the movie could top the holiday weekend records held by "Spider-Man 2" and "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse."

"Spider-Man 2" holds the three-day record for the Fourth of July with $88.2 million from Friday to Sunday. Paramount says "Dark of the Moon" should come in about $10 million above that.

The studio also says "Dark of the Moon" could finish slightly ahead of the five-day record $157.6 million that "Eclipse" took in from Wednesday to Sunday over the holiday weekend last summer.

But today's admission prices are much higher than they were for 2004's "Spider-Man 2," while 60 percent of business for "Dark of the Moon" came from 3-D tickets, which cost a few dollars more than regular 2-D screenings.

Neither "Spider-Man 2" nor "Eclipse" had that 3-D price advantage, meaning both movies likely sold more tickets over opening weekend than "Dark of the Moon" will.

Still, the sequel has joined the previous two "Transformers" movies as global blockbusters. Paramount estimates that "Dark of the Moon" will have taken in $200 million overseas in 111 countries through Sunday.

The studio says that by the end of the holiday weekend Monday, combined domestic and international grosses for "Dark of the Moon" will be about $400 million.

The new movie still trails the domestic haul of the last "Transformers," though. "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" pulled in $127.9 million in its first three days, Wednesday to Friday, in 2009. That's about $30 million more than "Dark of the Moon."

Jill Scott rocks sassy new look, music at Essence

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Neo-soul artist Jill Scott brought a sassy new look, new music and a surprise performance with soul-singer Anthony Hamilton on the second day of the Essence Music Festival. Scott performed some of her timeless hits Saturday evening such as "Long Walk," and "The Way" and drew heavily on tunes from her new release, "The Light of the Sun." She delighted fans when Hamilton joined her on stage to perform their current hit, "So In Love," which has helped push the new album to No. 1—her first release to do so.

Scott was among the headliners for Saturday's festival, which also featured performances by El Debarge, Chaka Khan and the night's closer, rapper Kanye West.

Kanye West performs at the 2011 Essence Music Festival in New Orleans, Saturday, July 2, 2011.

AP

Swift postpones Louisville concert for illness

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Taylor Swift is postponing a show for the first time in her career.

Swift had to postpone Saturday night's sold-out show at the Yum Center in Louisville under doctor's orders because of an illness.

She tweeted the bad news to fans: "This is my first time having to do this. I'm so, so sorry."

Within 20 minutes hundreds of followers had responded with get-well wishes, which were already among the most popular international trends on Twitter for the day.

Swift postponed the show until Oct. 11. She's due for a short break before returning to the road in Charlotte, N.C., on Friday in support of her multi-platinum "Speak Now" album.

In this Sunday, June 12, 2011, file photo, Taylor Swift performs during the CMA Fan Fest in Nashville, Tenn.

AP

AP

In this Oct. 15, 2007, file photo, actress Scarlett Johansson arrives at Elle magazine's 14th Annual Women in Hollywood tribute in Los Angeles.

Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Green Lantern and Black Widow, or at least the actors who play them on the big screen, are officially single again.

Court records show a judge finalized the divorce Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson on Friday in Los Angeles.

Reynolds appeared in the recent film adaptation of the DC comic "The Green Lantern," filed for divorce in December.

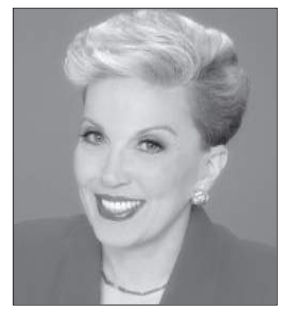
The filing came shortly after the couple, which kept their courtship and nuptials private, announced they had split.

The final divorce judgment filed Friday did not say how the pair would divide their assets.

Johansson portrays the Black Widow in "Iron Man 2" and the upcoming "Avengers" film.

Single woman is perplexed by sympathy from others

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a divorcee and happy with my life. I'm healthy, have a great job, wonderful grown children, many good friends and several hobbies I enjoy. I'm busy and every day is full.

My issue is the way some people treat the fact that I'm "solo." When they see me, they ask whether I have a man in my life yet, and when I say I don't, they look downcast and offer me their sympathy.

Please tell your readers that for a woman to be solo isn't a tragedy. Certainly, I hope one day to meet someone wonderful to share my life with, but until then I'm happy to be on my own. I'm doing great and I don't like people treating me as if my being single is some sort of failure.

PARTY OF ONE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR PARTY OF ONE: If I had to wager, I would bet the people you've described are older. For people in their generation there was social and economic pressure to couple up and be married. With more women completing their education and earning enough to live well on their own, there is less of that pressure today.

I'm passing your message along, but try to remember that the folks you're encountering mean well—even if their way of expressing it is outdated and clumsy.

DEAR ABBY: A new church member joined our group. She's the nicest, most generous, genuinely kind person, and she is loved and appreciated by all.

The problem is, she reeks with an awful body odor. She breeds dogs, and the smell is ingrained in her clothing, hair, car, etc. She always volunteers to work in the kitchen, and yesterday she did—in spite of my having politely told her we had enough volunteers. Many of the people didn't want what she touched, including me. How should we approach telling her about her body odor without offending or hurting her?

CONFUSED CHRISTIAN IN DETROIT

DEAR CONFUSED CHRISTIAN: The woman's strong body odor may be because of poor hygiene or her profession, but it could also be a symptom of illness. Someone should talk to her about it. To do so would be doing her a favor and not hurtful. The person I'm nominating for that job would be your minister.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man I'll call Eugene for many years. We have both been married before and we both have children. We're engaged, but if I marry him, I know I will never be No. 1 in his life. His children and family will always come first.

I don't know what his former wife did to him, but shouldn't your spouse rank somewhere at the top? I have a lot of time invested in this relationship. His children have no connection with me at all. This doesn't bother Eugene. It bothers me greatly. Can these types of issues be worked out?

FRIEND WITHOUT BENEFITS

DEAR FRIEND: Yes, if you and Eugene are willing to admit there are issues that need to be worked out and are willing to get premarital counseling. While Eugene's children —and yours— might always come first, if you are going to have a successful marriage you should rank right up there with them. While you may never have an emotional tie with his children, you deserve to be treated with the same kindness and respect that you give them. And if that's not happening, Eugene should insist upon it.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: Happy Fourth of July, everyone!

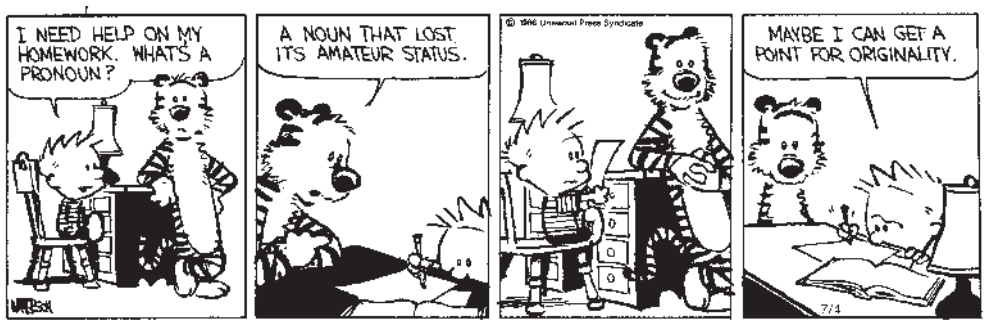
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

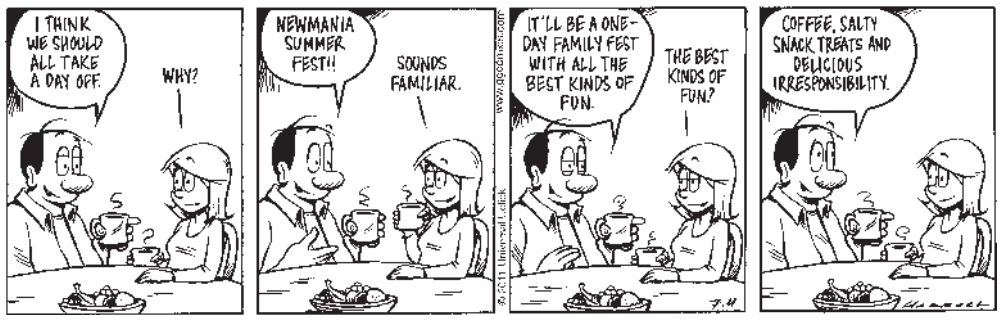


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I THINK WE SHOULD ALL TAKE A DAY OFF.
WHY?
NEWMANIA SUMMER FEST!!
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
IT'LL BE A ONE-DAY FAMILY FEST WITH ALL THE BEST KINDS OF FUN.
THE BEST KINDS OF FUN?
COFFEE, SALTY SNACK TREATS AND DELICIOUS IRRESPONSIBILITY.
7/4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

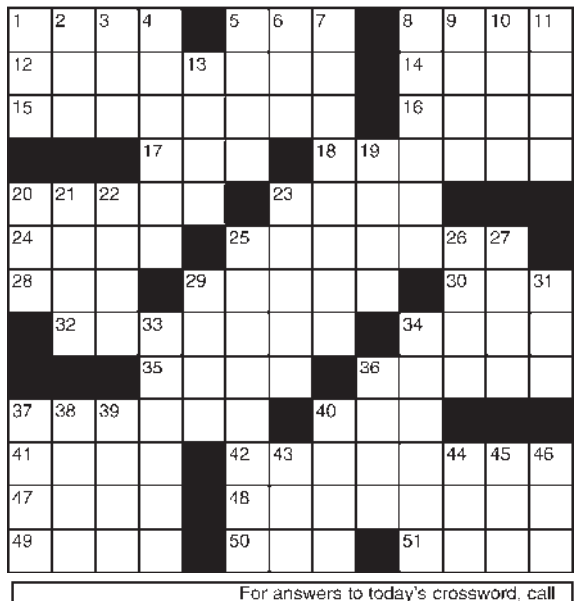
ACROSS
1 Moist
5 Lingerie item
8 "The — Piper of Hamelin"
12 Outside
14 Went on horseback
15 1972 Bill Withers hit
16 And others (Lat.)
17 Two-timer
18 Blazing
20 Garden insect
23 Roman 202
24 Newman or Lynde
25 One with an entry-level job?
28 Up to, briefly
29 Dorian Gray's creator
30 Baby's mealtime garb
32 "Greetings," in India
34 Options list
35 "Woe is me!"
36 "Psycho" surname
37 Lunar surface feature
40 Inmate
41 Raise
42 Pop song of 1929
47 Land measure
48 Store
49 Needy
50 Soon to arrive
51 Charitable donations

DOWN
1 Atl. state
2 Chopper
3 1959 Kingston Trio hit
4 Writing tool
5 Tie
6 Bulg. neighbor
7 Three digits after 1
8 Early game in a tourney
9 Greek vowel
10 Dutch cheese
11 Drop a letter?
13 Street
19 Shoot a gun
20 Suitable
21 Aspirin target
22 Hawaiian dance
23 Indianapolis team
25 Took weapons from
26 Help in a crime
27 Near-perfect score, maybe
29 Corduroy ridge
31 Greyhound carrier
33 Be important
34 Oft-repeated chant
36 U2 lead
37 Applaud
38 Puerto —
39 Roundish hairstyle
40 Superhero costume feature
43 Ostrich's cousin
44 Lubricate
45 Close-mouthed
46 Type squares

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	C	I	D	■	M	A	K	E	■	F	E	W
S	A	R	I	■	O	W	E	S	■	A	L	A
P	R	O	S	■	N	A	Y	S	■	T	A	R
S	F	N	T	■	G	Y	P	■	D	F	N	T
■	■	■	R	O	O	■	A	M	I	■	■	■
F	A	C	I	A	L	■	D	A	S	H	E	R
A	L	A	C	K	■	■	S	T	A	K	E	■
B	E	T	T	E	R	■	H	O	R	S	E	D
■	■	■	E	N	E	■	I	N	A	■	■	■
C	L	O	D	■	C	A	D	■	C	H	U	M
H	A	M	■	E	T	U	I	■	T	O	R	I
U	Z	I	■	B	O	R	N	■	E	A	S	T
G	E	T	■	B	R	A	G	■	D	R	A	T

Saturday's answer 7-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, 29; Becki Newton, 33; Geraldo Rivera, 68; Neil Simon, 84.

Happy Birthday: Take a serious look at what you are doing with your life and the direction you are heading. Consider what you want and how to get it. Be creative and innovative and believe in the possibilities. Prepare to incorporate what you enjoy doing most with how you earn your living. Use your head but follow your heart. Your numbers are 9, 12, 23, 29, 33, 35, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll tend to be erratic if you let the little things get to you. Love may not be too stable. Get along with the people you have to deal with. Listen, nod your head and consider what you will do when your timing is friendlier. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tighten the reins and keep things simple. Getting down to business and physically getting things done will lead to success; talking about what you are going to do will waste time. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can accomplish a lot if you communicate with others about your plans, ideas and interests. You will learn and achieve a lot that can lead to a way to earn more money. Take time to fix up your home. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't venture too far from what and who you know best. You will encounter more than you can handle if you go up against someone who is stubborn. Help the ones you love before you offer your services to charity. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful not to upset a situation at work that could damage your reputation or cause a loss. Focus on how you can get out of the office to learn and make changes that are satisfying. Most of all, avoid controversy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Concentrate more on what you can accomplish without being disturbed. Making room at home for a project that interests you will help you accomplish the most. Love is in the stars. Someone who appears pushy will turn out to be of interest. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You don't have to spend money to enjoy yourself. Use your intuitive intelligence and, before you know it, you will have everything you need with a little hands-on effort. An energetic approach will bring greater interest from someone you've been trying to impress. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't allow your emotions to take over. You may say something you will regret if you take criticism seriously or become jealous or possessive. Concentrate more on the creative projects you want to get up and running. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Set your sights high and follow your head when it comes to legal matters. You can get ahead financially if you steer clear of emotional deception. Let your competitive nature lead the way to success. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put everything in order so you are prepared to take advantage of an investment opportunity. Love is on the rise, and taking time at the end of the day to impress someone who means the world to you is a good idea. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will learn a lot if you discuss your intentions with someone you want to be a part of your plans. A change in direction and attitude will show you are serious about engaging in something new. Write your to-do list. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to be honest with yourself before you can make a positive move. If you are giving out false information you will face setbacks, not to mention legal retribution. Rethink your steps and make amends where needed. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You adapt easily to change and look forward to trying new things. You are intelligent, charismatic and intense.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		4			1		5	
						7		6
8			4		5		1	
		3		6		4		1
			8	9	4			
7		9		5		6		
	2		5		8			7
1		5						
	7		3			5		2

Difficulty Level ★ 7/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	5	9	7	3	6	8	1
6	9	1	5	4	8	2	7	3
8	3	7	6	1	2	4	9	5
9	5	2	4	3	6	7	1	8
3	6	4	1	8	7	9	5	2
1	7	8	2	9	5	3	4	6
2	4	9	3	5	1	8	6	7
5	8	6	7	2	4	1	3	9
7	1	3	8	6	9	5	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DANCES THROUGH THE YEARS **Solution: 7 letters**

M	S	A	P	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	F	K
P	U	P	B	E	A	T	T	C	E	P	S	E	R	S
R	G	S	E	M	D	E	L	L	I	K	S	N	S	I
A	N	V	I	T	U	O	G	N	A	T	O	E	L	H
C	I	L	I	C	S	R	A	Y	I	I	L	R	E	W
T	H	I	P	S	T	E	R	V	T	E	I	A	C	E
I	G	A	Ⓝ	O	I	C	I	A	M	H	F	T	N	D
C	U	Y	Ⓡ	F	B	T	R	I	W	P	A	I	E	D
E	A	R	Ⓤ	L	I	B	T	E	U	A	V	O	I	I
R	L	E	Ⓣ	E	E	A	O	E	A	R	O	N	R	N
U	A	E	S	L	L	S	V	N	L	T	R	A	E	G
S	I	H	E	E	O	E	T	L	D	Y	I	L	P	L
I	C	C	N	N	N	R	O	O	L	F	T	V	X	O
E	O	T	G	T	T	I	M	I	N	G	E	S	E	O
L	S	E	R	A	U	Q	S	C	I	S	S	A	L	C

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Bond, Bop, Celebration, Charleston, Cheery, Classics, Cool, Creative, Event, Experience, Favorites, Festivities, Floor, Gathering, Generational, Hipster, Laughing, Leisure, Music, Party, Practice, Respect, Rumba, Skilled, Social, Song, Square, Steps, Style, Talent, Tango, Timeless, Timing, Tum, Upbeat, Visit, Wedding, Whirl, Whisk

Last Saturday's Answer: Diplomacy

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volumes 23, 27, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 send $6.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Uclick, plus $3 postage for the first book, $1 for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6479. Order online at puzzles.com

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Special Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a special meeting on July 5, 2011 (Tuesday) from 1:00pm-3:00pm, at the Head Start Main Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Old Business
1. Basic Grant Application FY 2011-2012 OHS Review and Recommendations

IV. New Business
1. Action Item:
   a. Approval of SY 2011-2012 Calendar
   b. Approval of Recommendation for Hire; Family Advocate

V. Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761.

/s/
Anthony Barcinas
Chairperson

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hope strength joy!
Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 07, 2011 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of April 05, 2011 Minutes
IV. Reports
- Chairman
- OVR Director
- CLI Director

V. Old Business
- Membership Training
- CLI Visit & Tour
- Membership Status

VI. New Business
- NDEAM
- SILC Congress representation

VII. Announcements
VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950,
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 Third General Membership on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at the Lilac, Saipan World Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and adoption of the FY'11 2nd Meeting Minutes (04/07/11)
V. Reports
   a. OVR Director
   b. SRC Chairman
   c. Sub-Committees
VI. Old Business
   - 2012 State Plan
   - OVR Policy Manual
VII. New Business
   - 2011 NDEAM
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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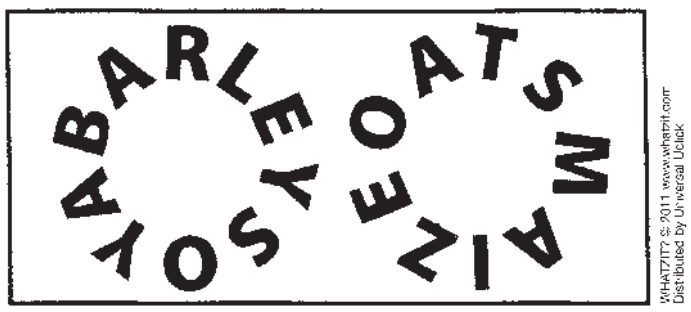
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

US gains quarterfinals with 3-0 rout of Colombia

SINSHEIM, Germany (AP)—Anyone can sign autographs or pose for photos. The U.S. women found a better way to say "thank you" to the American military members who turned their World Cup match into a home game.

The U.S. advanced to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup with a 3-0 rout of Colombia on Saturday, delighting a sellout crowd made up almost entirely of American fans. The team lined up for a military salute after Heather O'Reilly's opening goal, and Megan Rapinoe grabbed a TV mic and sang "Born in the USA" after she scored.

"The troops came out to practice the other day, which was a fantastic environment," said Carli Lloyd, who scored the third goal. "We thought it would be good to salute them. It was fun, something different."

The two-time World Cup champions now play Sweden, one of two teams to beat them this year, on Wednesday in Wolfsburg to determine the Group C winner. The Americans and Sweden both have six points, but the U.S. leads the group on goal differential and can claim the top spot with a victory or a tie.

Colombia is a team on the rise, finishing fourth at the Under-20 World Cup last year. But this is its first World Cup appearance, and the youngsters were no match for the deeper, more experienced Americans. The U.S. harassed goalkeeper Sandra Sepulveda relentlessly, forcing her to work more in this game than some goalkeepers will work all tournament.

She didn't get much help from her backline, which was shredded by the speedy O'Reilly time and again.

"It's a growing experience," said defender Nataly Arias, who was born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area. "It was their size, their speed. They're all big, they're all fast, they're all agile."

And it could have been even worse for the Colombians. The Americans missed at least a half-dozen other chances, and had a whopping 27-12 advantage in shots. Abby Wambach missed so many chances she had little choice but to laugh at her misfortunes by the end of the game, and Rapinoe banged a shot off the crossbar.

Colombia did get four shots on goal, with their best chance coming in the 54th minute. Orianica Velasquez came in as a substitute, immediately got possession and took a shot, but Hope Solo punched it away.

"It's a tough loss for us, obviously," Arias said. "At the same time, I feel proud of what we did in this game."

The Americans are feeling pretty good about themselves, too.

Though the U.S. is the top-ranked team in the world and the defending Olympic champion, it was Germany, not the Americans considered the favorite when the tournament began. They had dropped three games in a five-month span after going more than two years without a loss, and needed to win a two-game playoff with Italy just to get to Germany.

But the U.S. rolled through its first two games, and its confidence is growing with every win. Though Wambach has yet to score and the Americans are struggling to finish shots, their five goals have come from five different players.

"That's a huge positive," O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly made Colombia pay for its botched clearance of a goal kick in the 12th minute, jumping on the ball after it bounced off Liana Salazar. O'Reilly took a few steps and then blasted a right-footed shot from 25 yards that Sepulveda had no chance to stop. It was O'Reilly's third World Cup goal, and 30th overall.

"Pia's always saying, 'If you have space in front of you, just take it,'" O'Reilly said. "I took a couple of touches and just let it fly."

The crowd of 25,475 burst into cheers as the ball rolled around the upper corner of the net, and the players lined up for their salute. There is a U.S. Army base in nearby Mannheim, and about 350 service members and their families watched the team practice Thursday.

"We were really moved and inspired by the support they gave us," O'Reilly said.

The Americans could have had another four or five goals just in the first half alone. But, just as they have much of the year, they struggled to finish. Wambach, one of the world's best players in the air, misdirected one header wide and sent another soaring over the goal. Amy Rodriguez had a short chip shot blocked and skied a rebound of a Wambach miss, and Sepulveda punched away a shot by Lauren Cheney.

But the U.S. quickly put the game out of reach in the second half, with Rapinoe scoring in the 50th minute and Lloyd in the 57th.

Rapinoe, who replaced Rodriguez at halftime, took a throw-in for the U.S. that Cheney collected. She dished off to Rapinoe, who made a thunderous shot from just inside the penalty box. As the crowd roared, Rapinoe ran to the corner of the field, grabbed one of the big, fuzzy TV mics and did her best Bruce Springsteen imitation.

Lori Lindsey soon joined her, playing air guitar, and the game took on a party atmosphere.

"It always helps to hear 'USA' chants and see so many flags," O'Reilly said. "It builds us up even more."

AP

United States' Heather O Reilly goes with the ball during the group C match between the United States and Colombia at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Sinsheim, Germany, Saturday, July 2, 2011.

Watney, Fowler share lead at Aronimink

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa. (AP)—Before he even teed off, Rickie Fowler knew this was going to be a different day at the AT&T National. The course record already had been matched, with several other low rounds in progress at suddenly soft Aronimink Golf Club.

One thought crossed his mind: Go time.

That's the message Fowler always puts on Twitter right before he plays, and off he went. He birdied six of his opening 10 holes—and missed two other chances inside 10 feet. He wound up with a 6-under 64 on Saturday and a share of the lead with Nick Watney, who set the course record with a 62.

"I got out, and my game has been feeling good all week," Fowler said. "Went out and started off well, hit some good shots and kept moving from there."

Watney took a while to get moving. He made a mess of the par-5 ninth and was even-par on the front nine, going nowhere. What happened after that, not even Watney can explain.

"The hole looked really big on the back," said Watney, a World Golf Championship winner. "The ball was going where I was looking, and by the time I looked up, I was 8 under."

That's 8 under for his round, and the back nine alone.

After three straight birdies, he then made a 30-foot eagle putt on the par-5 16th. Facing a dangerous pin on the par-3 17th, he went after it with a wedge to 5 feet and another birdie. Watney shot 27 on the back, missing by one the PGA Tour's nine-hole record.

When the massacre of Aronimink was over—40 of 76 players shot in the 60s, including 14 rounds at 66 or better—nothing had really been settled except for a lot of birdies being made.

Fowler and Watney were at 9-under 201, one shot ahead of 36-hole leader K.J. Choi, who came to life late in his round with two birdies on the final three holes to salvage a 69.

Steve Marino, who had a 63 to own the course record for about 20 minutes, was two shots behind at 7-under 205 along with Webb Simpson (64) and Adam Scott (66). The group another shot back included Chris Kirk, whose 63 was in the record book much longer—about an hour.

Scott was tempted to start firing at flags when he saw all low scores, but stuck to his plan and meticulously worked his way around the golf course.

"I'm quite happy with a 66, to be honest," Scott said. "But yeah, it doesn't really stack up against a 62, does it?"

For all the hype over the fashionable Fowler, the 22-year-old hasn't won on the PGA Tour in 46 starts as a pro. He gave himself another chance at Aronimink.

But he isn't the only player going for his first win. Eight of the top 12 players on the leaderboard have yet to win on the PGA Tour.

Marino is regarded as among the best to have never collected a PGA Tour trophy, and he and Simpson—also winless on tour—could have even more at stake Sunday. The leading player among the top five not already eligible will be exempt for the British Open. Marino and Simpson also are battling for a higher ranking to see who will be the top alternate—which becomes more significant with Tiger Woods not expected to compete at Royal St. George's.

Watney, the highest-ranked player at Aronimink at No. 15 in the world, didn't figure to be part of the mix when he ended his front nine with back-to-back bogeys. He birdied his next two holes, then played a five-hole stretch in 6 under capped by his birdie on the 17th.

"I guess anything is possible," Watney said. "But I don't think you ever expect to shoot that low. You don't go on to the golf course very often anticipating a 62."

Certainly not this golf course.

In the opening round Thursday, only four of the holes average under par. On Saturday, with softer greens, tees moved forward and some hole locations that allowed shots to funnel toward the pin, half of the holes played under par.

Not everyone took advantage.

Chris Riley, playing in the last group with Choi, wound up with a 75. Justin Leonard and Bo Van Pelt each had a 71 to fall five shots behind, although they are still very much in the game.

Mark Russell, a vice president of competition in charge of setting up the course, said the watering pattern didn't change and attributed the soft conditions to more humidity in the air. It doesn't figure to change much for the final round, with storms in the forecast. The starting times for Sunday where moved up to try to avoid any weather delays.

Watney's last win was his biggest—a big drive on the 18th hole of the Blue Monster at Doral for a birdie and a two-shot win, proving to himself that he could deliver key shots under pressure.

Halladay returns to haunt Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP)—Roy Halladay beat his old team and won his sixth straight decision by guiding the Philadelphia Phillies to a 5-3 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday in Major League Baseball interleague action.

Halladay (11-3), who took the mound to a standing ovation from the crowd of 44,078, spent the first 12 years of his career with the Blue Jays before being traded to Philadelphia at the end of 2009.

Chase Utley hit a go-ahead homer for NL East-leading Philadelphia Phillies.

Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 26th home run before Blue Jays manager John Farrell and reliever Jon Rauch were both ejected in a wild top of the ninth. Luis Perez (1-1) got the loss.

Giants 15, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Pablo Sandoval and Brandon Crawford homered in a five-run first inning and Miguel Tejada had a grand slam in a five-run third as San Francisco crushed Detroit.

The game was delayed by a thunderstorm in the third inning for 2 hours, 36 minutes, and it ended after midnight.

Giants starter Barry Zito (2-1) pitched six scoreless innings, allowing only one walk. He pitched on short rest and stayed in the game despite the long delay.

Rigers starter Max Scherzer (9-4) allowed nine runs and three walks over two-plus innings. The Tigers have given up at least 14 runs three times in the past five games.

Yankees 5, Mets 2

In New York, the Yankees notched a season-best seventh straight win, beating the cross-town Mets in their New York showdown.

Yankees starter Bartolo Colon (6-3) pitched six shutout innings in his return from the disabled list.

The Yankees touched up Mets rookie pitcher Dillon Gee (8-2) in a four-run sixth.

Eduardo Nunez hit a solo homer in the ninth to make it 5-0. Filling in for injured Derek Jeter at shortstop, Nunez also had a pair of doubles after going 4 for 4 in Friday's 5-1 victory.

Jose Reyes left after two innings with hamstring tightness, taking the starch out of the Mets.

Rays 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Petersburg, Casey Kotchman hit a three-run double and scored on Justin Ruggiano's homer during a five-run sixth inning that gave Tampa Bay victory over St. Louis.

Kotchman's big two-out hit off Kyle McClellan (6-5) put the Rays ahead 3-1.

Rays starter Jeff Niemann (3-4) allowed one run in six-plus innings. for Tampa Bay.

Lance Berkman had put the Cardinals up 1-0 with his 21st homer of the season in the fourth.

Indians 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Michael Brantley's three-run homer was all Cleveland needed to beat Cincinnati.

Indians starter Fausto Carmona fell hard while running out a grounder in the third inning, leaving the game with a strained thigh. Frank Herrmann (1-0) took over and retired nine of the 10 batters he faced.

Brantley followed Carmona's fall with his first homer in nearly a month off Homer Bailey (3-3).

Cleveland is 5-0 against its state rival, one win away from the first sweep in the Ohio interleague series' history.

Braves 5, Orioles 4

In Atlanta, David Ross hit his second career grand slam as Atlanta extended its winning streak to five by edging Baltimore.

Braves starter Tim Hudson (7-6) pitched six innings and center fielder Jordan Schafer made a couple of nice defensive plays for the Braves. Craig Kimbrel worked around a one-out single in the ninth to earn his 24th save.

Orioles starter Jake Arrieta (9-5) pitched five innings, yielding five runs.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay acknowledges the crowd after throwing a complete game in their 5-3 victory against the Toronto Blue Jays in an interleague baseball game in Toronto. Saturday, July 2, 2011.

Pirates 5, Nationals 3, Game 1

In Washington, Garrett Jones and Andrew McCutchen hit back-to-back homers in the eighth to help Pittsburgh down Washington in the opening game of their first doubleheader in the nation's capital since the 19th Century.

Jones and McCutchen took Sean Burnett (3-5) deep to left field, both with two strikes on the count, as the Pirates moved two games over .500 for the eighth time this season.

Pirates starter Jose Veras (2-2) got the win and Joel Hanrahan got his 24th save in 24 chances this season, tying the club record for consecutive saves opportunities converted.

Diamondbacks 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Chris Young had three hits and four RBIs, including a two-run homer, powering Arizona past Oakland.

Joe Saunders (5-7) pitched seven-plus innings for Arizona, yielding two runs while improving to 12-4 in 18 career starts against Oakland. That's his most wins against any team.

Willie Bloomquist singled twice and scored for the Diamondbacks.

Athletics starter Josh Outman (3-3) allowed seven hits and walked three in six innings.

Marlins 9, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Hanley Ramirez hit a grand slam and solo shot for a career high-tying five RBIs, helping Florida defeat Texas.

Logan Morrison also homered for the Marlins while Steve Cishek pitched 2 2-3 innings for his first big league victory.

Florida knocked out Rangers starter Derek Holland (6-4) with a five-run first.

Brewers 8, Twins 7

In Minneapolis, George Kottaras capped a four-run ninth inning with a go-ahead RBI single that sent Milwaukee to an unlikely victory over Minnesota.

The Twins collected 13 hits in the first four innings while building a 7-0 lead, but had one hit for the rest of the game.

Minnesota reliever Matt Capps (2-4) surrendered five hits while recording just two outs in the ninth.

Angels 7, Dodgers 1

In Anaheim, Jered Weaver got a measure of payback against Clayton Kershaw six days after an undeserved loss in their previous match, leading the Angels over the Dodgers in the Los Angeles series.

Angels starter Weaver (9-4) won his fourth straight decision over six starts, allowing one run through eight innings with eight strikeouts. Last season's major league strikeout leader reduced his American League-best ERA to 1.92.

Dodgers starter Kershaw (8-4) was charged with a season-worst seven runs in six innings. He had 10 strikeouts, reaching double figures in that category in three straight starts for the first time in his career.

Padres 1, Mariners 0

In Seattle, an umpiring miscalculation helped San Diego beat Seattle.

In the fifth inning, Cameron Maybin walked after just three balls rather than four, and came around to score the only run of the game on Antonio Gonzalez's single.

No argument on the count was made by any Mariners, perhaps because the scoreboard showed three balls before Doug Fister (3-9) threw the final pitch to Maybin.

Red Sox 10, Astros 4

In Houston, Darnell McDonald hit a three-run homer as Boston notched a third straight win, overcoming Houston.

Yamaico Navarro went deep for the first time while Dustin Pedroia, Adrian Gonzalez and Kevin Youkilis each had three hits and drove in a run for the Red Sox. Andrew Miller (2-0) yielded two runs in six innings.

White Sox 1, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Phil Humber pitched seven scoreless innings to steer the White Sox over the Cub in their all-Chicago clash.

Humber (8-4) improved to 5-1 with a 2.47 ERA in his past six starts. Matt Thornton pitched a perfect eighth and ninth for his third save in seven chances.

Juan Pierre singled in the only run.

Cubs starter Matt Garza (4-7) yielded only four singles in his first complete game with the Cubs and seventh of his career, yet took the loss.

Rockies 9, Royals 6

In Denver, Mark Ellis had three doubles in his second game with Colorado, leading the Rockies over Kansas City.

Ellis, Todd Helton and Troy Tulowitzki each drove in two runs for Colorado, which finished with a season-high nine extra-base hits. Helton hit his 543rd double in the eighth, tying him with Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn for 24th on the career list.

Royals starter Kyle Davies (1-7) lasted just three innings in his first start since May 16, as Kansas City lost its fifth straight.

Belgium's Gilbert wins 1st stage of Tour de France

MONT DES ALOUETTES, France (AP)—Philippe Gilbert won the first stage of the Tour de France on Saturday to take the yellow jersey, while defending champion Alberto Contador lost more than a minute because of a late crash.

The Belgian rider, who dazzled fans by winning three classics races in April, sped ahead from the pack in the final several hundred yards and kissed his jersey as he crossed the line.

"It was the last 500 meters, I had a lead ... (and) I went for it," Gilbert said. "It was an extreme effort and I was able to take advantage."

Gilbert, who has notched 13 victories between race and stage wins this year, had been a favorite to win the opening stage.

He clocked 4 hours, 41 minutes, 31 seconds for the sun-baked 119-mile ride from La Barre-de-Monts to Mont des Alouettes in the western Vendee region.

Two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia was second, three seconds back—making him the best performer among the expected title contenders. Thor Hushovd of Norway was third, six seconds off the pace.

The 2,131-mile race ends July 24 on Paris' Champs-Elysees. It's shaping up as a battle among riders like Contador and last year's runner-up Andy Schleck of Luxembourg. Three-time champion Contador, a Spaniard, beat Schleck by just 39 seconds last year.

However, they both ran into trouble toward the end of the stage on Saturday.

With about 5.5 miles left, Astana rider Maxim Iglinskiy knocked shoulders with a fan on the roadside, causing a mass crash that delayed Contador and split the pack. About 40 riders stayed in front. The Spaniard finished 1:20 after Gilbert and is 82nd overall.

Schleck too got slowed down by yet another crash near the end, and finished the stage in 39th place. But according to race rules about crashes within last three kilometers, he was credited with the same time as the pack he was in - six seconds behind Gilbert - and placed 33rd overall.

Among other possible title contenders, Belgium's Jurgen Van den Broeck is fifth overall, Levi Leipheimer of the United States is 38th, and Briton Bradley Wiggins trails in 50th place—all six seconds behind the Belgian stage winner.

Five crashes took down riders in the nervous debut stage, including Movistar leader David Arroyo of Spain and Linus Gerdemann, the Leopard Trek rider who won the Tour of Luxembourg this year. Two injured Movistar teammates, Andrey Amador and Benat Intxauti, were taken to hospital for X-rays.

Belgium's Jelle Vanendert paid for his courtesy. Near the front of the main pack around the 39-mile mark, the Omega Pharma-Lotto rider held out his left arm to warn those behind him of a roadway median—a gesture that caused him to lose control of his bike. He tumbled to the ground with his helmet bouncing and his sunglasses skidding away, while several others fell in his wake. All of those involved returned to the race.

While the stage was mostly flat, the end was tricky. Riders had to scale the bumpy Mont des Alouettes—a 1.8-mile hill—up to the finish, so it was not tailor-made for traditional sprinters.

In a break with recent tradition, the Tour opener this year was not an individual time-trial prologue, with riders instead embarking right away on a full stage.

Klitschko beats Haye by unanimous decision

By KARL RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Wladimir Klitschko wanted to punish David Haye for all the trash talking he did leading up to their title fight. He settled for merely making Haye another statistic in his dominating heavyweight run.

Matched up against an opponent who didn't fight nearly as well as he talked, Klitschko dominated from the opening bell Saturday night on his way to a lopsided decision win in a fight that did not live up to its advance hype.

"He was scared to fight me," Klitschko said. "I was expecting more of a challenge in the ring, but he was super defensive."

The win was the 14th straight for Klitschko and improved his record to 17-2 in title fights. More importantly, he captured Haye's version of the heavyweight title, giving he and his brother, Vitali, all the major heavyweight title belts.

The two have long promised their mother they would never fight each other, but Vitali was in Wladimir's corner and ready to celebrate with him after the win in a rain-soaked soccer stadium in Hamburg.

"We're celebrating with my brother that we've collected all the belts in the heavyweight division," Klitschko said. "It wasn't as spectacular as I expected, but I was trying."

Haye had been expected to give Klitschko one of his most difficult fights, but he fought sparingly, seemingly afraid to take punches to the head as part of the cost of getting inside against his larger opponent. Haye blamed a broken toe suffered three weeks before the fight, taking off his shoe in the ring afterward to show it off.

AP

IBF, WBO, IBO world champion Wladimir Klitschko of Ukraine, top, fights with WBA world champion David Haye of Britain in a heavyweight unification fight in the stadium in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 2, 2011.

KVITOVA

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If there were those who wondered how the eighth-seeded Kvitova would handle the setting and the pressure, her coach did not.

Indeed, David Kotyza had an inkling his new pupil possessed the right stuff to win titles shortly after they began working together about 2 1/2 years ago. That's because he was wowed by the several pages of handwritten answers Kvitova supplied for a questionnaire he gave her back then—and has kept to this day.

"I was really surprised about how she thinks about tennis, how clever she is. She told me her advantages, disadvantages, what she has to improve," Kotyza said, then pointed a finger to his temple and added: "Her brain is a big advantage for this game."

When she was a kid growing up in Fulnek, Czech Republic—population: 6,000—and practicing an hour or so after school each day, Kvitova didn't count on becoming a professional tennis player. She simply wasn't that good, yet. Clearly, she's a quick study.

Before Wimbledon in 2010, Kvitova's career record on grass was 0-4. She is 16-2 on the slick surface since, including a run to the semifinals here last year before losing to Serena Williams.

At 21, Kvitova is the youngest Wimbledon champion since—you guessed it—Sharapova was 17 in 2004. Kvitova is also the first Czech to win the tournament since Jana Novotna in 1998.

Plus, Kvitova is only the third left-handed woman to win the grass-court Grand Slam tournament. The last was Martina Navratilova, who won her ninth Wimbledon title in 1990, a few months after Kvitova was born.

"I'm thrilled for her. She played brave tennis, and she deserved to win. She was by far the better player," said Navratilova, who was born in Czechoslovakia and sat near Novotna in the Royal Box on Saturday. "I don't think this is the only time she'll win here. It's very exciting. A new star."

That last phrase was being uttered by many people around the grounds after Kvitova managed to make Sharapova look rather ordinary.

Consider: Until Saturday, Sharapova had won all 12 sets she played over the last two weeks. But, as Sharapova's coach Thomas Hogstedt summed up afterward: "One played well. The other didn't play well. Maria didn't play as good as she can."

That was, at least in part, Kvitova's doing.

She compiled 19 winners, most by zipping her heavy forehands and backhands from the baseline, where her 6-foot frame and long arms helped her get to seemingly out-of-reach balls.

"She created offensive opportunities from tough positions on the court," Sharapova said. "Sometimes it's just too good."

Kvitova also broke Sharapova five times, anticipating where serves were headed.

It helped that Sharapova double-faulted six times, although at least those were fewer than the 13 the Russian hit in the semifinals.

"She performed incredible. Sometimes, when you don't know what to expect and you don't know how you're going to feel, sometimes you play your best, because you have that feeling of nothing to lose," said the fifth-seeded Sharapova, who was playing in a major final for the first time since right shoulder surgery in October 2008. "She went for it, absolutely."

What really was odd was seeing the experienced and normally gritty Sharapova bothered by distractions such as the swarms of tiny greenflies that showed up Saturday or the occasional clap or yell that came from the stands during points.

Even more stunning was the way Sharapova crumpled at key moments. One example: She double-faulted twice in a row to lose serve and fall behind 4-2 in the first set. Sharapova turned her back to the court and gave herself a little lecture, then smacked herself on her left palm with her racket.

Kvitova—now 4-1 in tournament finals this year—broke again to begin the second set, capping that game with a running forehand that caught the back edge of the baseline. The women exchanged four consecutive breaks in the middle of that set, before Kvitova—not Sharapova—gathered herself.

Ahead 4-3, but trailing 15-30 while serving, Kvitova hit three straight service winners to get to 5-3.

"She served quite hard. Her second serve was pretty big as well. She was going for it, for the second serve," Sharapova said. "I felt like I could have reacted a little bit better."

Credit Kvitova also for being at her steadiest in the most resolve-testing moments. She served out both sets at love, including with a 105 mph ace on match point.

What was running through her head right then?

"I have to do it now," she would say later.

After that last point—one last nerve-free point—Kvitova raised both arms, then dropped to her knees. A raucous celebration ensued in her guest box, including some overzealous chest-bumping that left one man knocked off his feet. Kvitova's allotted seats were completely filled—with her coach, parents, two brothers and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, among others—while Sharapova's section had only her agent, coach, hitting partner and fiance, New Jersey Nets guard Sasha Vujacic.

"When you lose in the final, you feel like the biggest loser in a way, but Maria is on the right track. She's working hard," Vujacic said. "She needed a lot of time to come back, and I think if she stays on the same road, there are many good things ahead of us."

Now there will be similar expectations of Kvitova.

Kotyza, her coach, said Kvitova's best quality probably is that "she's just an ordinary girl. She's standing with both feet on the ground. And I think it's very, very important for ... these matches. Because she's 'OK, just hit the ball, and we will see.'"

Asked after Saturday's victory when she first realized she might one day win a Grand Slam title, Kvitova smiled, tucked some strands of hair behind her ear and replied: "Probably yesterday."

MAMI

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Kipchirchir Kipkorir placing second and third respectively. Matebor crossed the finish line just 12 seconds behind Kamakya, as the latter posted 2:10:13, while Kipkorir logged 2:10:50.

Two Japanese runners made it to the Top 5 with Taiga Ito recording 2:13:16 and Noriaki Takahashi posting 2:14:13.

Ethiopia's Goitetom Haftu Tesema was the first female finisher at 2:30:08, which was also faster than the 2010 winning time (2:31:33) of Japanese Kaori Yoshida. The Kuala Lumpur Marathon winner finished 18th overall and had a split time of 1:14:27

Canada's Roxie Fraser was the second overall female finisher, but was more than 10 minutes behind Tesema after the former recorded 2:41:17. Japan's Chihiro Tanaka completed the Top 3 with her 2:43:04.

A total of 5,086 runners joined the longest event in the weekend racefest, which also featured a half marathon, 10K, 5K, 4K, and 2K runs, and wheelchair half marathon. Over 21,000 runners joined the weekend races with the half marathon drawing the most participants with 8,901. In the 10K race, 5,998 joined; 3,625 for 5K; 419 for 4K; 722 for 2K; and 10 for wheelchair half marathon.

MINI

From Page 28

package and this is a good sign that a successful Games can be achieved if ever the Commonwealth wins the bid contest.

Lakhan together with Council executive director Andrew Minogue were on Saipan last week and stayed here for four days for a site inspection visit and meeting with government officials and other concerned parties in the CNMI's bid for the Mini Games.

The two officials visited various facilities last Wednesday and met with school officials and some businessmen and then last Thursday paid a visit to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "The meeting with the governor was very positive. He said improvements on facilities are on their way. The governor will be in Noumea during the CNMI's bid presentation and he will lead your delegation," Lakhan said.

The Council president also met Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison and Hopwood Junior High School's Jonas Barcinas. Both schools are proposed as Athletes Village and the two principals said room renovations and other facilities inside the school, particularly restrooms, will be done in time for 2017.

For his part, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, who helped toured the visitors to the facilities on island, said the CNMI is all set for the Games.

"We are ready to host the nations participating in the Games. We are ready to go," White said.

Lakhan and Minogue left Saipan Friday afternoon and the former is expected to work on an evaluation report this week after visiting the CNMI, Vanuatu, and Nauru. The report will be distributed to the 22 Pacific Games Associations (PGAs), which will then decide the winning bid on Sept. 4 at the Pacific Games general assembly in Noumea during the Pacific Games.

The CNMI will need 12 votes to get the majority decision and win the bid outright. If no nation gets the majority votes, a second round of voting will take place between the Top 2 vote getters. Lakhan and Minogue are not allowed to vote.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

Gyles Ruluked and Jun Estolas delivered the crucial plays for Mobil in Game 2 to foil Smart Cagers' bid to extend the short series.

Behind at 82-85, Mobil coach Marvin Deocares sued for time and instructed his wards to go for a quick three. However, when play resumed Estolas was tempted to pull up for a trey when he found himself open from the right side. He missed and Smart Cagers' Marlon De Dios collared the rebound and passed it to Pete Iguel, but the lob was too high and Smart Cagers lost possession.

With Mobil regaining the leather, Deocares this time instructed his guards to make a shot from downtown. However at the resumption of the match Mobil's gunners were well guarded. Fortunately, Ruluked was momentarily left open off Ron Gamboa's screen, pulled up for a 3-pointer from the top key, and hit the bank shot to tie the game, 85-all, with 14 seconds left on the clock.

Smart Cagers had timeouts left, but called none and opted to make a quick inbound. Darwin Barbo received the pass, but was pressured in the backcourt by Ruluked and Estolas. Ruluked eventually tapped the ball out of Barbo's hands, Estolas picked it up, and then the Mobil guard went up a layup.

Mobil went ahead for the first time, 87-85, and Smart Cagers had no time to pull up for a decent shot, as only one second was left on the clock.

It was a sorry loss for Smart Cagers, as they dictated the tempo of the game all throughout before making crucial lapses in the end.

Errol Peredo and De Dios gave Smart Cagers a good start when they combined for 13 points and lifted their team to a 22-15 lead at the end of the first period.

Mobil picked up the scoring in the second canto behind Marvin Rabauliman's seven straight points. However, Smart Cagers hung on to the driver's seat at the break, 46-39, as Peredo continued to score and drew support from his teammates.

The gap widened to 10 by the end of the third canto, 71-61, when Darwin Barbo broke loose and score 10 of his 21 markers in that period.

Ruluked, who was held to two field goals in the first three quarters, started the fourth with five straight points, while Estolas earned a living from the foul line to spark Mobil's rally. The eventual back-to-back champions hung in there until Smart Cagers committed booboos in the end, allowing Mobil to steal the win and sweep the series. Mobil won Game 1, 90-74.

Rabauliman top-scored for Mobil in Game 2 with his 24 points, while Estolas and Ruluked chipped in 16 and 12. Ron Gamboa and Larry Sharry combined for 22 markers for Mobil's balance offense.

Mobil 87 – Rabauliman 24, Estolas 16, Ruluked 12, Gamboa 12, Sharry 10, Fernando 8, De Guzman 2.

Smart Cagers 85 – Barbo 21, Peredo 19, De Dios 16, Iguel 14, Sacramento 9, Usi 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-22, 39-46, 61-71, 87-85.

Weekend Sports

ASPAC, visiting officials make headlines

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010 Asian Pacific Regional Tournament and arrival off off-island sports officials were the talk of the town last week.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars were in the Philippines to compete in the ASPAC and won their first two games before finishing the double-round robin elimination with a 3-1 record. The CNMI youth sluggers eventually made it to the finals, but lost to the Philippines, 1-7. The host won over the CNMI twice in the ASPAC, denying the Commonwealth anew of a World Series trip.

Back on Saipan, the CNMI welcomed three visiting officials.

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan and executive director Andrew Minogue were on Saipan for four days for a site inspection visit of proposed facilities for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

The two officials visited the Marianas High School, Oleai Sports Complex, Hopwood Junior High School, Pacific Islands Club tennis courts, Coral Ocean Point Golf Course, NMC Gymnasium, the proposed location for a new football field in Koblerville, Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort and gave these facilities a good grade.

Lakhan and Minogue also met with government and local sports officials to gauge the CNMI's capability to host the Pacific Mini Games five years from now.

Also making a visit on Saipan was Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken. She stayed on Saipan for a week and conducted a youth clinic for four days and umpire and adult players seminar last Saturday.

Other significant events last week were Armatech's title win in the Miller Lite caging; the announcements of the members of the CNMI U15 football and swim teams; conclusion of the IT&E badminton tournament; Thea Minor and Rafael Jones' participation to the 2011 Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji; Mobil's Game 1 win against Smart Cagers in their best-of-three finals series in the QQ Cup; the 70 riders who joined the Butch Journey to XTERRA Hawaii Bike Race; and Tammy Ackerman's upset victory in the Inaugural Salvation Army Food Bank 5km Fun Run & Walk.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, third from left, and executive director Andrew Minogue, fourth from left, tour the Marianas High School Gymnasium last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the CNMI U15 Footbal Team jogs during a training session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken, right, teaches a clinic participant how to serve during last Tuesday's sessions at the TSL Sports Complex.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Kvitova captures first major championship

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—One might reasonably have expected Petra Kvitova, not Maria Sharapova, to be betrayed by nerves in the Wimbledon final.

This was, after all, Kvitova's first Grand Slam championship match, while Sharapova already owned three major titles, including one from the All England Club. So Kvitova decided to pretend she was heading out on Centre Court to play in the fourth round.

That mindset worked. So, too, did nearly everything Kvitova tried once play began, particularly her big, flat left-handed groundstrokes that pushed Sharapova back on her heels. In a surprisingly lopsided final, Kvitova beat the higher-seeded, yet shakier, Sharapova 6-3, 6-4 Saturday to win Wimbledon for her first Grand Slam trophy.

"I was surprised how I was feeling on the court," Kvitova said, "because I was focused only on the point and on the game and not on the final."

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Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic holds her trophy aloft after defeating Russia's Maria Sharapova in the ladies' singles final at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Saturday, July 2, 2011.

AP

Back-to-back titles for Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Smart Cagers were not that clever after all, as it collapsed in the closing minutes of Game 2 of the best-of-three title series in the 2011 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup, allowing Mobil to eke out an 87-85 victory and clinch the championship Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Down by three in the last 30 seconds of the game, Mobil showed mental toughness in the homestretch to sweep the series and defended the title it won last year against Ferrera Builders.

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mobil's Gyles Ruluked, seen here going for a reverse layup in a regular season game against the Sonics, hit a triple and made a big defensive stop in Game 2 of the QQ Cup finals to lift his team to an 87-85 title win over Smart Cagers Saturday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mami completes Gold Coast marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mamiko Oshima-Berger was among the more than 4,500 finishers in yesterday's 2011 Gold Coast Airport Marathon in Queensland, Australia.

The CNMI runner completed the 42.195-kilometer race in three hours, 53 minutes, and 30 seconds to take the No. 1,638 spot out of the 4,548 finishers in the annual event. Oshima-Berger was entered in the 40 top 44 age group and placed 63rd out of 259 runners in her field and 333rd out of 1,505 female finishers.

Oshima-Berger

The 41-year-old runner had a split time of 1:31:40 and completed the first 5 kilometers of the race in 21:05. She kept her pace in the next 20 kilometers before slowing down in the last 17.

Oshima-Berger met her target time in Gold Coast, as she eyed to finish the race between three to four hours.

Nicholas Manza Kamakya of Kenya was the No. 1 overall finisher in yesterday's race, submitting a blistering time of 2:10:01. The veteran runner eclipsed the 2010 winning time of fellow Kenyan James Kariuki Mbugua (2:13:53).

Kenya had a Top 3 finish in the men's division with Albert Kiplagat Matebor and Japhet

See MAMI on Page 26

Mini Games bid unites CNMI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, NMASA president Michael White, secretary Rose Igitol, Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, executive director Andrew Minogue, and KSPN 2 news director Bob Coldeen pose for a group photo after a brief press conference last Friday at KSPN studio at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Pacific Games Council Vidhya Lakhan was impressed to see how all members of the community in the CNMI unite to present a promising bid for the hosting rights of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

The Council president said all stakeholders—from the government side to the local sports community, schools, and business sectors—become one team and are making their contributions to the CNMI's bid

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